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PINK AND BLUE WALKERS TO HELP CANCER CHARITY

A GROUP of determined local women are taking part in this year's Cardiff Pink and Blue Walk in aid of Cancer Research Wales.

The 21-strong group all attend weekly Weightwatchers meetings in Litchard, Ogmore Vale and Coity in Bridgend, and will use the walk to raise funds for the charity and also as motivation to get fit.

Weightwatchers leader, Clare Bugler, has been running the classes for a year, and entered the ladies in to the walk.

She explained: "We had a leaflet for the Pink and Blue Walk from Cancer Research Wales and I thought it would be a great way for the group to get moving more.

"I think everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer and by taking part in the walk and getting our friends and families to sponsor us, we can help to fund the research."

The ladies will wear pink and blue to raise money for breast and prostate cancer research on Sunday, September 5, on the 4km walk around the Cardiff Bay barrage.

To sign up for the Pink and Blue Walk in advance, please contact Cancer Research Wales on 029 2031 6976 or register from 10am on the day.

LEFT: LOCAL WOMEN ARE PICTURED ON LAST YEAR'S CHARITY WALK.

Division over fire station plans

Roster ignites war of words

A WAR of words has broken out between Labour and Plaid Cymru in the Llynfi Valley over plans to change the rostering at Maesteg Fire Station.

When the issue came up at Maesteg Town Council, Coun Keith Edwards, who also sits as a Labour borough councillor, said that the South Wales Fire Authority consists of 24 members who represent the 10 council areas served by the authority.

He reported that the political break-down of the authority was nine Labour, six Conservatives, four Plaid Cymru, Three Liberal Democrats and two Independents.

He stated that the Liberal Democrats, Plaid and Conservative members had banded together in a coalition to run the authority and he claimed that they were driving the self-rostering plan forward.

Bridgend is represented by Labour members David Sage and Clive James.

Coun Edwards told the town council that Coun Sage had written to the chief fire officer with concerns about the new system being proposed for Maesteg and a few other stations, which could see firefighters working four consecutive 24-hour shifts in a week.

He asked for the policy to be suspended until the authority has had talks with the Fire Brigades Union, but has received no response.

The authority is due to take a decision on the plans on September 27.

Coun Edwards maintained: "There's a consortium of three political parties driving this through, yet Plaid Cymru have a petition against it in Maesteg. They are petitioning against something that their members on the authority are supporting."

But his claim has been rejected by Plaid Cymru councillor Malcolm James, who insisted that the party was totally opposed to the proposal:

"The on-line petition is being organised by Coun Danny Clarke who did not want to make it political. He was approached for support by the firefighters in Maesteg and agreed to help them in the fight."

Coun James said he was disappointed that the Labour Party was making this a party political issue: "This is something that is above party politics," he said. "It's about the well-being of firefighters who are being asked to be in work for 96 consecutive hours.

"That is appalling. And it is also about the safety of the people of the valley who need adequate fire cover."

Coun James felt that Labour could not claim that the Plaid Cymru members on the authority were supporting the plan when no vote has been taken on it yet.

"This is political shenanigans. We are clear that in Maesteg we are totally opposed to this," he added.

The town council has decided to oppose the proposals and is writing to all members of the authority.

(See full report on page 3)

WOMAN (83) ROBBED IN CAR PARK

BRIDGEND police are appealing for information after an 83-year-old woman was robbed at around 4.40pm on August 26 in The Rhiw car park.

They said she had returned to her car and was placing shopping onto the rear seat, when she was pushed from behind by a man and her handbag, containing a large amount of cash, was snatched.

He was described as well built, in his 40s, with dark hair, whiskery, possibly with a moustache. He was wearing a navy blue jacket with red on it and carried a blue and red rucksack style bag.

Acting Detective Inspector Mark O'Shea said: "This was a cowardly attack upon an unsuspecting member of the public. We would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed this incident or who may have seen the suspect fleeing from the scene.

"We have a team of detectives working on this, and we will do all we can to bring the perpetrator of this serious crime to justice."

Anyone with information is asked to contact ADI O'Shea, Bridgend CID, on 01656 679518 – or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

STOP PRESS

AS The GEM went to press, South Wales Police announced that a 59-year-old man from the Bridgend area had been arrested on suspicion of robbery.

Bridgend's best GCSE results

Young people in the County Borough have achieved Bridgend's best-ever results in this summer's WJEC GCSE examinations.

The examination board's figures show that 65.7 per cent of candidates achieved higher grade passes (grades A–C) this year, with 98.9 per cent achieving a pass grade (grades A*–G).*

Coun Alana Davies, Bridgend's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "I'm delighted by these record-breaking results. On behalf of the whole county borough, I want to congratulate our students on their tremendous success this year, which is the outcome of their hard work and determination. .

"I am also aware that these results would not be achieved without the commitment and dedication of the teachers and support staff in our schools, and I want to thank them for their continuing efforts on behalf of our young people."

Council Leader Mel Nott added; "These excellent results are really encouraging for the future.

"The challenges faced by our young people, here as everywhere else, are increasing year by year and so I hope that as many as possible will want to continue their education and training..."

Maesteg woman found dead

POLICE in Maesteg are appealing for witnesses, following the sudden death of a 24-year-old woman who was found in Bridge Street, Maesteg, at around 5.45am yesterday (Wednesday, September 1).

A police spokesman said yesterday that the death is not being treated as suspicious and investigations into the incident are continuing.

The next of kin have been informed and a file is being prepared for H M Coroner.

Police are appealing for information from anyone who may have seen anything unusual or suspicious in the area of Bridge Street in the minutes before 5.45am to contact them.

Anyone with information should contact Acting Detective Inspector Gareth Morgan at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111.

PASSER-BY PUNCHED AFTER INTERVENING IN ARGUMENT

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MAN who intervened when he spotted a bricklayer having an argument with a woman was punched in the face near Pyle station.

Ian Edwards suffered bruising and cuts, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

His attacker, Shaun Burnell (19) a man who has no previous convictions, of Kenfig Hill, was sentenced to a one-year community order involving 200 hours unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay costs of £750 and compensation to his victim of £250.

Burnell had been found guilty at an earlier hearing of a charge of causing Mr Edwards actual bodily harm.

Recorder Roger Britton said: "I have taken into consideration everything said on your behalf. You appreciate that this was a serious matter.

"Generally, you are well behaved and hardworking, but you are going to have to be careful in the future."

Prosecutor David Thomas said that at about 10.10pm on December 12, Mr Edwards picked up his wife at Pyle station after she had visited Swansea.

Walking home, he saw Burnell arguing with his girlfriend and said: "Come on mate, there's no need for that."

With that, said Mr Thomas, Burnell punched him in the face.

Burnell denied the allegation and said he had acted in self defence.

His counsel Heath Edwards said: "People are very concerned to see him in this situation. He is the first to understand that he could face prison.

"But there are significant positive features in his background. He didn't go out looking for trouble that night.

"The incident was short-lived, the injuries unpleasant. It was certainly not premeditated.

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Green fingers in Llantwit Major

THERE were plenty of keen gardeners looking to show off their produce when the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society held its annual show recently.

A full table of results is printed on page 5, recording the winners in all the day's categories – from shallots to cherry tomatoes, and from dahlias to cacti!

Plaid Cymru AM accuses Vale Council of 'hoarding' council tenants' rent money

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Vale Council has defended itself after being accused of "hoarding around £10 million" in its housing revenue account – cash that can only be spent on council house repairs.

The charge came from Plaid Cymru Regional AM Chris Franks, who wants to know why this cash is not being spent on vital housing work on some of the council's 3,950 homes..

The Plaid AM said, "It is right to have some funds in reserve to cope with unexpected spending. However, this is a huge sum. At the same time there is a repairs backlog that needs addressing."

Mr Franks said that his calculations suggested that the reserves in 2008 were £6.2 million, increasing to £7.2 million in 2009, and £10m in 2010.

He said: "Therefore, over this period there has been a growth of nearly £4 million."

Mr Franks said that he feared that the failure to spend the money was tied in with the council's plan to transfer its housing stock to the proposed Heritage Coast Homes organisation – a plan that is currently subject to consultation.

Tony Jaques, the Vale Council's head of public housing services, confirmed that money in the housing revenue account was "ring fenced" and could only be used to pay for services to council tenants.

He added that the council currently spends a minimum of £3m each year on providing repairs and maintenance to its 3,950 council-owned homes, and then a further £2.7m per year on major improvements such as replacing central heating systems or providing double glazed windows.

However, Coun Franks said that it was wrong to let the account increase. He said: "Tenants have paid this money and it's wrong to leave properties in poor conditions.

"It seems to me that the Vale Council should be pumping money into the local economy now, and not wait for years before doing anything.

"With unemployment a problem, there are builders crying out for work."

He said he suspected that the reason for letting the cash build up, was that it would make the council's housing stock more attractive in the event of the transfer going ahead.

However, Tony Jaques said that the Welsh Assembly's Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme meant that more "non-maintenance" cash needed to be put aside – although he declined to specify the amount.

He said: "Over the past few years, the council has prudently put aside some of its non-maintenance monies in preparation for the WHQS programme commencing.

"In the event of tenants saying no to transfer, this money will be used in its entirety to support WHQS.

"In the event of tenants voting in favour of transfer, this money remains as an asset to the council and will offset the impact of transfer. Money has not been set aside to fund any campaigns."

Llantwit war veteran is TV's Monte Cassino battle expert

A LLANTWIT MAJOR man was featured recently in a popular BBC TV programme – and his contribution brought back memories of one of the most fiercely-fought battles of World War Two.

The programme was the popular *Who Do You Think You Are?,* where celebrities trace their family history, and the August 16 edition featured the *Spooks* actor, Rupert Penry-Jones.

Bob Clarke from Boverton was the local man who appeared, as the production crew took the actor on a journey through his family history.

Bob was chosen to guide the actor through the part played by his grandfather, who served at Monte Cassino – a bloody campaign where the Allied forces tried to break though heavy German fortifications, as they fought their way from the south of Italy to the north.

The programme had discovered that the actor's grandfather had served as a doctor in the 8th Army Indian Division Medical Corps.

As Bob had served in the campaign, and also because he is a member of the Monte Cassino Society, he was asked to explain the conditions faced by the soldiers to Rupert Penry-Jones.

Monte Cassino has a particular resonance, because the battlefield was dominated by a historic monastery on the summit of Monte Cassino, which Allied troops came to believe was a perfect vantage point for the Germans.

Even to this day, the question of whether the Germans used the monastery to help their campaign is a controversial subject.

Eventually, the Allies bombed the monastery, and the arguments over whether this was justified are still not resolved.

Bob Clarke's contribution to the programme, however, centred on what the conditions for soldiers were like, and on how the medical corps would have coped.

He was able to tell Rupert Penry-Jones that his grandfather would have had to exhibit great bravery on a daily basis, as they treated and rescued casualties under the German guns.

However, the filming proved to be long and complicated for Bob, because the first date for filming in Italy was postponed because of the ash cloud.

As a result, it was May before Bob could fly to Italy, and then it was a whistle-stop trip, leaving Llantwit Major on a Wednesday morning, and then flying from Heathrow to Italy.

After an overnight stay, he was driven to Cassino on the Thursday, and briefed on what would happen on the filming day on Friday. The production company had hired a restaurant overlooking Cassino for the filming, which took almost three hours.

What Bob had not expected was the high temperature. He said: "It was a hot day anyway, but the TV lights made it so much hotter. It was quite staggering."

After the filming, Bob had nothing but praise for the film crew. He said: "The entire crew were fabulous, especially Noa Snowdon, who accompanied me to Italy.

"Rupert Penry-Jones made me feel very relaxed in what could have been a very stressful situation."

Winners could be reunited with their lost trophies...

Dave Boyter (left) with Stuart Mackie and the lost trophies.

New owner of Old Brewery uncovers a treasure trove!

by PHILIP IRWIN

MEMBERS of two local pool and darts leagues could be reunited with long lost trophies – after they were discovered by the new owner of the Old Brewery public house.

The pub, in Eglwys Brewis Road, has been closed for around five years, and was recently bought by Dave Boyter, who has plans to convert it into a hotel and restaurant.

It was when Mr Boyter was looking over the property that he discovered a collection of trophies, dated between 1994 and 2005.

He was wondering what to do with them when, one evening, he popped into the nearby Carpenters Arms pub.

Quite by chance, he struck up a conversation with Stuart Mackie, a regular at the pub, and told him what he had found in the Old Brewery.

As Stuart is the new chairman of the Llantwit and District Pool League, and a former regular at the Old Brewery, he knew exactly what they were.

He told The GEM: "In fact, I tried for about six months to collect them when the Old Brewery closed.

"I rang the owners but had no luck at all getting through to anyone who could help."

In time, Stuart forgot about the lost trophies – until his chance meeting with Dave Boyter. As a result, a meeting was arranged to officially hand over the treasure trove.

There are trophies for the local darts league, and also for the pool league.

Judging by the dates of the silverware, some had been won in the 2005 season, and were probably still awaiting collection by the winners when the pub closed.

Also in the collection are a number of personal tankards. One commemorates '*Tony's First Half century*', while another is inscribed '*To Dad on your 50th, from Chris and Linda*'.

Another says '*To Roger the Dodger from all the mob at C & G Bridges*'.

Intriguingly, there is a 1966 trophy to the RAFC, for the '*Head of the River Race*'.

Stuart said: "I can return most of the trophies to their rightful owner by checking the records. However, the personal items are going to be a bit more difficult."

Dave Boyter, who is a builder, has bought the Old Brewery through his company, Paddle Homes, and he told The GEM: "My original plan was to redevelop the building as a 14-room hotel.

"However, since I have learned more about the history of the Old Brewery, I think it could have potential as a heritage attraction.

"I have had talks with the Assembly's tourism unit, and there may be grant aid available for that."

He explained that it might be one of the Vale's oldest breweries, dating back to 1906, when it was called, so he understands, The Old Eagle Brewery.

He said: "Tourism officers have suggested that we could open a micro brewery and a brewing heritage centre as well, so that is a possibility. It would link in to plans to develop Llantwit's history tourism

"The next round of grant applications is due to be decided on in October, so I should get a decision then."

He added that if the heritage grant aid was not forthcoming, he would revert to the original plan for a hotel.

Do any of the tankard inscriptions ring a bell? If so, contact Philip Irwin at The GEM on 01446 774484.

Police commissioner plan gives too much power to one person

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.

THE floor in the spare bedroom is covered in piles of documents and reports for me to tackle as part of my summer recess reading.

The largest pile is made up of defence papers, including books about Afghanistan and Pakistan, defence and security briefings, industry magazines and papers for the defence committee. They are ready for the Parliamentary debate on September 9 on UK Armed Forces in Afghanistan.

The second largest pile contains reports from health-based charities. As chair of the All Party Suicide and Self Harm Group, I have reports from the Royal College of Psychiatry to read and the replies from the Department of Health to questions I submitted prior to the recess. I am also vice-chair of the Kidney All Party Group and secretary of the Parkinson's All Party Group and have a number of reports and studies to absorb.

My last task was reading papers on the Home Office proposals set out in the consultation on policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People.

The consultation proposed a single elected commissioner for each police force area. The commissioner would appoint (where a vacancy arose) or dismiss the Chief Constable, monitor and hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force, set the police budget and set out a local policing plan.

Having read the consultation and papers from numerous sources I don't know why the idea of commissioners is being proposed. UK crime is at an all-time low; the British crime survey of July 2009 showed that compared to 1997, overall crime is down 36 per cent, violence down 41 per cent, domestic burglary down 54 per cent.

Here in Bridgend, we have the headquarters for South Wales Police and across the force area 13,816 fewer crimes took place between April 09 and March 2010.

We were the sixth most improved force in the UK for overall crime and for violent crime, as well as the most improved force nationally for sexual offences.

Nationally, the Home Secretary sets legislation, policy, objectives and targets. Locally, the police authority sets the local policing plan and priorities, while the Chief Constable Peter Vaughan has operational independence for the direction and control of the police force.

The police authority is made up of local people who monitor a wide range of policing activities and functions. There are 19 members of the South Wales Police Authority; 10 are councillors and nine are independent.

Each local council has a number of members based on the votes cast by the electorate. Interestingly, the South Wales Police Authority has four Labour, to Conservative, two Liberal Democrats, one Plaid and one Independent councillors.

Of the seven councils sitting on the police authority, five are represented by their leaders. Coun Mel Nott, the leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, represents Bridgend.

Members of the police authority are trained to take on a wide variety of roles from performance and financial monitoring to collaboration with other agencies on issues such as counter terrorism, protection of vulnerable people and serious and organised crime.

The police authority sets policing priorities following consultation with the public. Targets are set for reducing and detecting crimes and a police budget agreed and added to the local Council Tax. For 2010-11, the budget for South Wales Police is £257.3million.

In my surgeries and in meetings with the pubic and local organisations, I have never heard a call for a change in police structures. So what is being proposed?

Police authorities will be replaced by directly elected police and crime commissioners. Basically, each force will have a single elected commissioner who will do the work of the current police authority members.

This will place a huge amount of power in the hands of one person, so as a check to this power there will be a new police and crime panel (PCP) drawn from local councillors and independent members.

The PCP will advise the commissioner on the police plan and budget and can request that the commissioner be investigated where there are allegation of misconduct.

Instead of a police authority, we will have a police commissioner, plus a police and crime panel.

How much is this going to cost at a time of alleged financial austerity? South Wales Police have already faced a budget cut of £2.6 million, yet it is proposed to spend an estimated £50 million, not on front line policing, but on electing a new layer of highly political and power intensive bureaucracy.

Why will the post be political? Those who wish to stand for election as police commissioner must either be personally wealthy, have financial backers or be funded by political parties. Organising an election campaign covering the whole of the South Wales Police area is neither cheap nor simple. There is a high risk of a great deal of police control being in the hands of one person and one political party.

How much the police commissioner will be paid is not detailed in the consultation document. The 19 police authority members cost around £213,000 in allowances, travel and subsistence. The new post will be highly paid, plus there will be the new police and crime panel to fund.

I cannot see how replacing 19 people from across the police force area with one individual will increase accountability. I fear the politicisation of the police with power concentrated in one individual.

You can find the consultation at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/policing-21st-century. The very brief consultation process opened on July 26 and will close on September 20 for implementation in 2012.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Telephone 01656 750002.
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JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend 01656 654951
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CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
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WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
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SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service
(General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643**
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES
(general enquiries) **01656 642200**
(outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**

'SHOW BUSES HAMPERED BY LACK OF ONE-WAY SYSTEM'

LETTER

EST was contracted by the Vale Council to operate four bus services to the Vale Show.

The one-way system agreed in advance for all traffic was not implemented on the day.

On attempting to use this one-way system agreed, the buses became bogged down in the temporary road inside the show ground, which resulted in the first services running late.

All subsequent buses were forced therefore to come in and out of the same entrance as the queuing public traffic, which further increased the late running of the services.

In an attempt to reduce the delays, additional vehicles were brought in to use which were not funded for by the council or show organisers.

The operation of these extra services resulted in a loss for EST, as EST absorbed all the extra cost for the provision of the extra vehicles.

The timetable was set and designed by the Council and not EST, and stated that long delays may occur.

It is EST's intention to recommend that next year a dedicated entrance in and out of the Vale Show for the buses (bus lane), or a temporary bus stop be placed on the main road outside the show ground. We will also recommend that two vehicles be used on the C1 service due to passenger volume.

If all these recommendations are fulfilled for next year, we anticipate that all services will run as scheduled.

EST would like to apologise to all passengers who had difficulties using the services to the show ground.

EST made every effort, both before and on the day, to organise and run the service as scheduled.

Mark Harris,
(EST operations director)

Fun day out with the cats!

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding an open day on Saturday, September 11 from 10.30am-4pm, which promises to be a fun day out for cat lovers as well as the general public.

"The day will have an 'Alice in Wonderland' theme, with many of the centre's staff dressing up as characters from the movie. Individuals can also meet the many loving and adorable cats, currently in the centre's care, who are looking for new homes," said Sue Dobbs, the centre's manager.

"The Open Day is a great opportunity for a fun day out while supporting your local branch of Cats Protection, which finds new homes for the many stray and abandoned cats that come into its care."

Other attractions include a bric-a-brac stall, bouncy castle and tombola. There will also be a barbecue and other refreshments on sale. Parking is available on site and the admission fee is £1 per person; children under-3 admitted free.

For further information, call 01656 724396. Alternatively, visit www.cats.org.uk, select the 'Find us' option and follow the instructions.

WRITE IN!

● *WE welcome your views and news items. Please email them to the editorial department:* ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
02 Thur			12.16	7.8
03 Fri	00.57	7.6	13.39	7.5
04 Sat	02.31	7.4	15.14	7.7
05 Sun	04.01	7.9	16.38	8.4
06 Mon	05.13	8.8	17.35	9.3
07 Tues	06.06	9.4	18.28	10.0
08 Wed	06.58	10.1	19.14	10.6
09 Thur	07.39	10.4	19.56	10.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

The Glamorgan GEM

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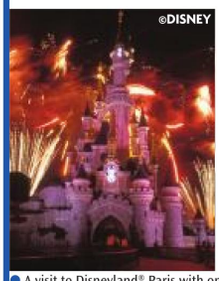

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Limited, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL and printed by North Wales Newspapers.

Maesteg fire station to be downgraded?

– TOWN COUNCIL WARNING

Report by JAYNE ISAAC

MAESTEG is in danger of losing its second retained fire appliance and the station could be downgraded as part of drastic cost savings being considered by the South Wales Fire Authority.

That's the warning from members of Maesteg Town Council, who have heard presentations from the authority and from the Fire Brigades Union which is fighting proposed changes in rostering at the station.

The council heard a presentation on the changes from Kevin Barry, deputy chief fire officer and were also given an analysis of the financial crisis facing the authority, with a need to save more than £10m over three years.

The council also received a delegation from the Fire Brigades Union with Mark Watt, chairman of the south Wales branch, and Ciaran Gibbons, who is based in Maesteg.

Mr Barry outlined the brigade's proposal to introduce self-rostering at Maesteg and two other stations – New Inn and Penarth.

Under this scheme, the number of full time fire fighters based in Maesteg would drop from 28 to 12 or 13. Instead of having four watches of seven who work two day shifts, two nights (42 hours) and then have four days off, the new system would see five officers on duty for 24 hours at a time.

They would do a 12-hour day shift and then have a 12 hour stand down, sleeping at the station. They would be subject to being called out during that time if an emergency arose.

The system would mean that they would work an average of three and a half shifts a week which is 84 hours. They would be able to work up to four shifts in a row, but no more than that would be permitted.

The self-rostering system would mean that the staff would choose themselves how to work the hours necessary and they could introduce flexibility to suit their circumstances. Out of the 12 or 13 staff, only five would be required to be on duty and the rest would be off.

Only volunteers would be rostered in this way. Others who wish to stick to traditional staffing rotas, would be transferred to other stations.

However, Mr Watt said that this system was being opposed by the union and its members because there were fears that it would be rolled out across the brigade, despite assurances given by Mr Barry that only the quietest stations would be able to work this way.

He said that the majority of stations would be unable to introduce this new rota because of the volume of calls they deal with.

Mr Watt said that people could be at the station for up to 96 hours a week. He said that the fire service had been opted out of the working times directive en masse because it was classed as a civil defence service.

He said that since Mr Barry had been in Maesteg, a further station at Ebbw Vale was being listed as being suitable for the self rostering. There were fears that this number would grow.

He stated that union members had voted for industrial action in protest at these plans.

Talks have taken place with senior managers who say that there have been expressions of interest from some staff at the three stations and they would need 36 people in total to implement the new system.

The meeting heard that the South Wales Fire Authority will be making a decision about whether or not to bring in this new system at its meeting on September 27. In the meantime, consultation is taking place in each of the affected areas.

Mr Watt said that the union had come up with some cost saving proposals: "We are not unrealistic. We know the sort of financial climate we are in. We know we have to take a hit but we will not work 96 hours a week."

He claimed that the consultation was a sham and the decision had already been made. Contracts for the new rostering system were ready to sign so that it can start on January 1.

He warned that members had initially voted to take industrial action short of a strike but went on: "It may mean that we have to take strike action because nobody is listening to us. Our backs are against the wall. It's about our members not having to work this shift pattern.

"The gloves are off – that's what our members are telling us."

Mr Watt feared that it would be hard for the authority to sustain the new system with volunteers only and it would be hard for members to resist pressure to work the new system.

"They are changing things. At first it was only three stations, then last week it was Ebbw Vale as well. Now they are talking more. We know that there are more stations to come. It will affect the resilience of the authority to deal with major incidents."

Coun Phil White said he was concerned about the possible reduction in front line cover in Maesteg and asked if alternative ways to save money by cutting back-room staff were being considered.

Mr Watt said that suggestions have been made but the managers are targeting the front line staff.

If 48 jobs were removed from the establishment, these were "bums sitting on seats in fire engines."

Asked about the security of Maesteg's second fire appliance, which is manned by a retained (part time) crew, Mr Watt said that all second pumps were under review and none were safe.

Mr Gibbons said if the authority does not get the volunteers they need to man the self rostering, they could downgrade the Maesteg station.

"We have to stop self rostering, or the long term future of Maesteg fire station is under threat," he warned."

Coun White commented that Maesteg was the second largest town in the county borough and downgrading the station would be very worrying.

Mr Watt pointed out that the three stations chosen for self rostering were not selected at random but were picked because of the number of calls they received.

Ultimately, the cover provided by the station was under threat which is why their campaign needs to be backed by the community as a whole.

"We are fighting for our members now but the next fight will be for public safety. There's a real possibility that across south Wales stations will close or be downgraded."

Coun Keith Edwards warned that the second appliance review was based on location, levels of activity and it has to match the risk profile in a given area.

"Maesteg has low risk and low activity," he said. "I think our second appliance is in grave danger of being taken out.

"Our response as a town council should be based on the need to protect the people of Maesteg and surrounding areas.

"We need to keep the station fully manned and keep the second appliance in place."

Coun Bill May felt that the council should write to the chair of the authority, the vice chairman and the chief fire officer with its views.

"We must state that we see the need to keep two pumps in Maesteg," he added.

Coun Gareth Howells said that the letter should go to every member of the authority who represent the seven local councils that lie within it.

"Whatever their political complexion, they cannot hide behind the fact that they were not contacted if they have each had a letter. If something goes wrong in the future, it's important that it is on the record that this decision is detrimental to the people of Maesteg.

"We must also make it clear we oppose self rostering and that changes must be negotiated and not imposed."

It was agreed to write to all fire authority members plus AM Janice Gregory and MP Huw Irranca Davies as well as First Minister Carwyn Jones.

Maesteg grants to charities

MAESTEG Town Council has made the following grants:

Bridgend Samaritans, £250; Marie Curie Cancer Care, £100.

A request for help from the Ogmore Valley Silver Band in funding a visit to Prestatyn, where it will represent the borough in a competition, has been deferred while the council finds out if any Maesteg residents are members of the band.

ABOVE: SEVEN OF THE BEST!

GCSE results show St John's has the 'value-added factor!'

ONCE again St John's School, Porthcawl proved it has the 'value-added factor' last week when year-11 students received their GCSE results.

Overall, 42 per cent of all results were at Grades A* or A, compared to the national average of 22 per cent. Particularly pleasing were James Kearle and Bethanie Denyer, who followed in last year's head boy's and head girl's footsteps by achieving 9 A*s and As each, best results in school.

Bethanie should be especially congratulated as not only did she achieve her mathematics GCSE at grade A when she was in year-10, but also this year she achieved statistics and sciences among her 7 A*s. Bethanie also achieved a pass in a free-standing additional further mathematics qualification.

Bursar Marisa Lewis commented: "The small school with its family ethos has shown again how 100 per cent of its pupils, whatever their ability, achieve above and beyond early expectations.

"Not only do able pupils achieve high grades, but children who have to work extra hard to overcome difficulties succeed in examinations, due to the supportive learning environment of the school."

Headmistress, Mrs Clint, said how proud she and staff are of the pupils and their achievements. All pupils had the opportunity to study not only all the core subjects, but at least one language, as well as a range of other academic subjects.

"Congratulations also go to the year-10 pupils who received very good results for their science modules and for examinations taken early in French and German.

"Well done also to Madeleine Sarll, who sat her GCSE German at St John's two years early and achieved an A* with an amazing 100 per cent!"

Teenagers on first rungs of Army ladder

TWO 16-year-olds from Bridgend and Pontyclun are off to the Army Foundation College this month.

With courses at Harrogate and Winchester, the college offer vocational and military training for young people before they move off to their chosen regiments and corps.

Matthew Willment from North Cornelly, a former pupil of Cynffig School and Shaun O'Connor from Brynna, Pontyclun, who went to Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari will join the same Harrogate course for 40 weeks, before going on to 1 Welsh Guards in Aldershot.

Major Mark John, Army Recruitment Officer for south west Wales, said: "The Army Foundation College offers an ideal opportunity for young people to carry on their education whilst training as soldiers. Joining as 16 and 17 year olds, they will learn fitness, some military history and tactics, improve their numeracy and English and earn an apprenticeship, as well as basic military training.

"It is good that we have two young men who have decided to make the Army Foundation College their first step in a military career taking their oaths on the same day and joining the same regiment. They will be a good team from day one."

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Mountain biking ruled out in Maesteg

MAESTEG Town Council has expressed disappointment at the findings of a feasibility study into the development of cycle trails in the Ogmore, Garw and Llynfi Valleys.

The report, which was jointly funded by BCBC and the three valley community councils, found that the Garw had the best terrain and opportunities for creating trails with some limited development possible in the Ogmore Valley.

However, it ruled out developing any in the Llynfi valley for a number of reasons.

Coun Terry Mizen, who attended a meeting called to discuss the feasibility study's conclusions, reported that concern was expressed about the high use of off-road motor cycles in Maesteg which would be difficult to control, and would create maintenance problems and damage to the trails.

He said that each trail costs up to £125,000 to create, so it was difficult to see how any could be provided in Maesteg following the report's conclusions, but he reported that the BMX track planned for Caerau was welcomed and would provide a valuable facility for the whole area.

Mountain biking is a growing hobby in the UK and the adjoining Afan Valley has become a centre of excellence, attracting visitors from all over the UK and beyond. It is listed in the top 10 areas in the world.

The new trails planned for Garw would link up over the mountain with the Afan Valley and could attract up to 200,000 visitors a year.

Coun Mizen told Maesteg councillors that it was a disappointing report, but he did not see how things could be developed further.

"They are saying a full-blown cycle track would not be viable," he added.

Coun Keith Edwards commented that the council was asked to pay towards the feasibility study, but the valley was now being left out in the cold.

Coun Mizen said that Bridgend county as a whole had missed out on mountain bike opportunities which have gone to Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taff Council areas. BCBC was in a catch-up situation and was hoping to link up with centres elsewhere.

LEFT: Laura McDonald is congratulated by the headmaster, Mr Aguilar.

'OUTSTANDING RESULTS'

St Clare's school pupils' celebrate 100 per cent success at GCSE

ST CLARE'S independent school in Porthcawl was again celebrating, with last week's announcement of a 100 per cent overall pass rate at GCSE with 93.4 per cent of grades at A*–C. One in four results was an A* grade and nearly one in two results was an A* or A grade.

A spokesperson reports: Pupils achieved an outstanding 75.4 per cent pass grade at A*–B, compared to 65.5 per cent in 2009. 96.8 per cent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A*–C including English and mathematics. Fifteen subjects achieved passes of more than 90 per cent A*–C with eight achieving a 100 per cent pass rate at grades A*–C.

These excellent results come less than a week after sixth form pupils scored an outstanding 100 per cent pass rate at A-level and an excellent 60 per cent of grades at A*/A at A-level.

St Clare's School offers biology, chemistry and physics as separate sciences at GCSE and A-level and a significant number of pupils each year go on to read subjects such as medicine and veterinary science at university.

St Clare's also offers French and Spanish to GCSE and A-level with Italian available at GCSE in the sixth form.

Key achievements – Rebecca Cole gained 9A*s and an A grade and intends to study AS/A-levels in chemistry, biology, physics and French.

Gregor Parker achieved 9A*s and an A and intends to study chemistry, biology, maths and French at AS/A-level.

Owen Skelton will be studying four A-levels, as well as Italian GCSE, after gaining 9A*s and an A grade at GCSE.

Katie Nash will be studying chemistry, Spanish, maths and French at AS/A-level, as well as Italian GCSE, after gaining 7A* and 3A grades at GCSE

Emily Aldridge attained 8A*s, an A and a B, and intends to study chemistry, biology, history and English at AS/A-level.

Rhiannon Norman gained 3 A* grades and 7 A grades

Other achievements include: Korean student, Young Min Song who gained 9 GCSEs, including 3A*s and 3 A grades. This is a particularly impressive achievement as English is Young Min's second language.

Catherine Barnard, who retires as head of the school this summer, commented: "I would like to congratulate all of the pupils who have studied for these exams and prepare exemplary coursework. Our GCSE results this year have been fantastic and reflect all of the pupils' hard work over the last two years. It's great to be able to leave the school on such a high."

Owen Skelton celebrates with his dad Dr Skelton, physics teacher at St Clare's School.

Greg Parker with his proud mum.

Back row, left to right: Cdt John, CI Mr Peckham, Cdt Cpl Fitzgibbon, Cdt Cpl Richards, Cdt Flt Sgt Forsyth, Cdt Cpl Cooper. Front row left to right: Cdt Young, Cdt Tapner, Cdt Townsend, Cdt Aston, Cdt Cpl Humphrey.

Cadets get insight into engineering career at Nantgarw

CADETS from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron considering a career in engineering, were given a unique opportunity to visit GE Aircraft Engines maintenance plant at Nantgarw.

The visit was organised by Sergeant Kevin Gould ATC and started with a brief on the company's history. Cadets were given an idea of what they would need to attain an apprenticeship.

They were then given a tour of the factory floor and followed the process from an engine arriving at the plant, being cleaned and overhauled, through to the final engine test before being dispatched back to the client.

They also had information on the latest engines being produced, such as the GE90, one of the quietest engines; this type is fitted to the Boeing 777.

Another is the GE90-115B, the largest most powerful turbo fan engine and the CFM56, the world's best selling commercial engine.

All these are overhauled at the plant. Cadets and staff member are pictured (above) in front of a CFM56.

Lindsay Thomas (Secretary, Civilian Committee)

Students are taught in 68 'temporary' borough classrooms

THERE are 68 temporary buildings in use at the 66 nursery, infant, junior, primary, secondary and special schools in Bridgend county borough.

Coun David Unwin posed a question at the last full council meeting about the condition of these mobile classrooms and asked if they are fit for purpose.

He also asked about structural surveys carried out on such buildings, health and safety rules and repairs. He asked if those condemned as unsafe are immediately removed to prevent potential arson or vandal attacks.

In their reply, the Children's Directorate stated that there is no annual inspection protocol but these units are all assessed as part of the asset management condition survey, which was completed in 2007.

A rolling programme of further inspections is under way and all schools in the Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill areas were inspected in 2009.

Any problems identified result in surveyors checking them out and then regular inspections take place.

Work is carried out to extend their life and they are treated the same as the main buildings in terms of health and safety issues.

The statement added that structures are not always immediately removed because of the cost. It can cost £20,000 to remove one unit. If the school is being redeveloped, the removal of these units is included within the capital cost of the scheme.

Schools are always fully involved in any issues to do with the mobile classrooms and they are responsible for necessary maintenance work.

In a further response to The GEM after we listed some supplementary questions, a council spokesman said that as the schools modernisation programme takes effect, the number of temporary classrooms will fall.

Eight temporary classrooms installed at Archbishop McGrath school following the fire, will go when the new school opens in Brackla in September next year.

Six temporary buildings at Ogmore Comprehensive will also go when Ogmore merges with Ynysawdre to create the new Gateway to the Valleys school on the Tondu site. ***Jayne Isaac***

Maesteg's Ty Hafan shop gets makeover

THE Ty Hafan children's hospice has marked the success of its Maesteg charity shop by giving it a make-over.

A Ty Hafan spokeswoman said: "Since first opening in 2000, the Ty Hafan shop in Commercial Street, Maesteg, has gone from strength-to-strength and it is looking for donations to keep up with demand."

The shop, which is managed by Amanda Ledwell and Kimberley Rees, has just had a major refurbishment, providing a pleasant and bright shopping experience for regular and new customers.

Amanda said: "To complete our new look with fresh stock, we are asking for donations of good quality items.

"With summer almost over, now is the ideal time to make room for those winter woollies and have a good general clear out of unwanted items."

The charity now has 17 shops across south and west Wales, all with the reputation of offering high quality clothing, books and bric a brac at very reasonable prices.

Donated items can be taken to the shop at 139 Commercial Street between 9am-5pm, Monday to Saturday.

Local college celebrates academic year

BRIDGEND College is once again celebrating "phenomenal success", with 106 students achieving triple distinction profiles in their National Diploma programme, equalling 36O UCAS points (the equivalent of three A-levels at grade A).

This exceeds the totals of 2009 and 2008 (89 and 64 respectively) and equates to more than 30 per cent of all the college's National Diploma students achieving these outstanding results, in 2009/10.

Spokesman Ieuan Nash, said: "This fantastic news rounds up what has been an extremely successful 18 months for Bridgend College.

"It started with our outstanding Estyn Inspection results in May 2009, when the college was awarded 10 grade ones and five grade twos – one of the highest set of grades ever awarded to a further education college in Wales.

"It continued with our National Diploma in Applied Science (Forensic Science) receiving the AoC Beacon Award for science; and mathematics, IT lecturer Claire George being awarded the most enterprising teacher award 2009 and multiple ColegauCymru (fforwm) awards."

Bridgend College principal Mark Jones added: "The continued growth in the number of students achieving triple distinctions at diploma level, is testament to the continued high quality teaching and learning offered across all of our academic areas.

"Our warmest congratulations to all of the students on achieving triple distinctions.

"These highly recognised vocational qualifications have set them on their future careers paths or into further study in higher education."

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Shoe Zone Limited – **Shoe Zone, 31 John Street, Porthcawl** – signage.

Melanie Lazarus & Co – **38/40 Nolton Street (1st and 2nd floor), Bridgend** – advert signs (swinging sign and plaque).

FRF Motors – **FRF Motors, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – one fascia, one wall sign, one entrance panels and one totem sign.

Logica PLC – **Waterton House, Waterton Cross, Bridgend** – building mounted and free standing sign.

Mr Thomas Haxley – **42 Taliesen Close, Pencoed** – shorten branches of one oak tree by 2m, reduce branches of one oak tree by 4m and coppice willow to side.

BCBC Property and Finance – **Ty'R Ardd Day Centre, Sunnyside, Bridgend** – change of use to accommodate BCBC Registrars and public services.

Mr CD Elliott – **27 Maes Dewi Pritchard, Brackla, Bridgend** – re-positioning fence to the boundary edge to enclose land into curtilage.

Mr Hunt – **21 Heol Cerdin, Maesteg** – first floor side extension.

Mr R Davies – **Rhos Celyn, Litchard Terrace, Bridgend** – provide driveway to existing property.

Mr S Davies – **28 Pwllygath Street, Kenfig Hill** – kitchen/bathroom extension.

Mrs C Evans – **10 The Firs, Porthcawl** – regularisation of balcony to rear bedroom as built.

Cefn Cribbwr Athletic Club – **Cae Gof Playing Fields, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribbwr** – erection of a single storey athletic clubhouse.

Mr A Williams – **90 St Brides Road, Aberkenfig** – single storey pitched roof extension to rear.

Mr MJ and Mrs HL Raggett – **29 Lime Tree Way, Danygraig, Porthcawl** – single storey rear extension.

Mr S Evans – **345 A and C, New Road, Porthcawl** – extension to existing shop premises for retail and storage single storey.

Shoe Zone Limited **– Shoe Zone, 31 John Street, Porthcawl** – installation of new shopfront.

Mr J Lewis – **4 Ty Bryn Gardens, Pencoed** – convert existing attached garage into living space.

Valleys to Coast Housing Association – **land off Plumley Close, North Cornelly** – development of 11 dwellings.

Mr Wilmot – **5 Plumley Close, North Cornelly** – single storey flat roof extension to front.

Mr B Morris – **Upper Tremains Farmhouse, Brackla, Bridgend** – refurbish existing dwelling with single storey extension and loft conversion.

Miss T Hughes – **21A Newcastle Hill, Bridgend** – revised application for rear external access staircase.

Mr A Cavell – **18 St David's Way, Porthcawl** – single storey extension to side and rear of property.

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Temporary car park plan at Sandy Bay caravan site

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

TEN years after the last caravans were thrown off Sandy Bay Caravan Park in Porthcawl by Bridgend County Borough Council, BCBC has come forward with a new use for the site – as a temporary car park.

Thousands of pounds in revenue has been lost by the council since the caravan site was closed because the land was needed for the Porthcawl regeneration scheme.

But more than a decade on, the land remains a wilderness and the regeneration scheme has yet to get under way because the proposed development of the caravan park for new houses is on the back burner because of the recession.

The council decided last year to re-phase the regeneration so that building a new supermarket on the Hillsboro Place car park and across the link road to Salt Lake car park would take priority and this phase is now being progressed.

By taking out both car parks, the council has been left with a dilemma about how to provide parking for both shoppers wishing to visit the town centre, and the thousands of day trippers who come to the resort and especially to Coney Beach.

The solution that the council has come up with is using part of the Sandy Bay site as a temporary car park for up to 1,000 cars and 25 coaches. The consent will last for five years.

The car park will be used while work is under way to build the new Tesco supermarket on Hillsboro Place. Car parking is to be provided at that site as part of the project.

The Sandy Bay site covers 15 hectares but the car park will only need 2.5 hectares. It will be covered in fine gravel and existing roads will be used to access the site – along Rhych Avenue and also Mackworth Road, alongside Newton Primary School.

However, this access will be limited to weekends and other times when the school is not in use, because of safety fears expressed by the school about the safety of the children.

More than 150 local residents have objected to the proposal. They were concerned about increased traffic levels in the area posing a risk to pedestrians; congestion, air pollution, noise, dust and litter. There were also fears that the car park will be used by joy riders and there will be a loss of privacy.

An objection was also raised because the car park will not provide easy access to the town centre for people wishing to shop there, especially elderly motorists.

There were also concerns that the plan does not include any provision for overnight camper vans despite the fact that these vehicles often stay there as there is no provision for them anywhere in Porthcawl since Sandy Bay was closed down.

The development control committee heard that there were no highway objections to the plan. Part of the proposed car park will be close to houses in Mackworth Road and an overflow area is close to houses in New Road but it was not considered that there would be any loss of residential amenity.

Officers do not believe that the scheme will cause any increase in anti-social behaviour in the area.

There is no plan at the moment to introduce park and ride facilities although these are referred to in the Unitary Development Plan.

Access to the car park will be controlled by gates. The new car park will not be brought into use until either the Hillsboro Place or Salt Lake car parks have been closed to the public.

Special signage will also have to be in place, including those telling motorists that only the Rhych Avenue access can be used on weekdays.

Pictured at the junction of Court Road and Derwen Road, which will both benefit from the scheme, from left-right: Coun Mel Knott, Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council, Jocelyn Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration, Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Business and Budget, Coun Huw David, cabinet member for resources and Coun John Spanswick, cabinet member for communities.

Bridgend town centre to have 'new lease of life'

A £9million regeneration programme to transform Bridgend town centre has been given the go-ahead following an EU funding boost announced by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Over £7.7m from the Convergence European Regional Development Fund and the Targeted Match Fund has been approved.

Together with funding from Bridgend County Borough Council, who will deliver the scheme, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the town will be given a new lease of life, boosting commercial confidence and creating employment opportunities in the area.

Through the scheme, Court Road – traditionally the gateway into the town centre for visitors arriving by train – Nolton Street South, Merthyr Mawr Road North, Cheapside, Derwen Road and Cross Street will all benefit from improvements such as new street furniture, commercial property upgrades and heritage works.

In addition, measures to improve pedestrian safety, accessibility and traffic management will also get under way.

The new funding will enable further works to be carried out in Elder Street, where a regeneration project has already begun, including better links with the existing pedestrian area.

Announcing the funding package Business and Budget Minister Jane Hutt said: "Our successful management of EU resources ensures vital schemes such as this can be delivered to bring lasting benefits to people, communities and businesses.

"This investment will create a better environment and more opportunities which will increase prosperity for those within the town and beyond."

As part of the scheme, links between developments and the heart of the town centre will also be improved to ensure easier access to local facilities and services.

Deputy Minister for Regeneration, Jocelyn Davies AM, said: "Improving the physical appearance of a town will increase the confidence of potential investors, support the retail sector and boost the pride of people within the local community who will benefit from an attractive environment in which they can live, work and thrive."

The funding will build on previous and current regeneration phases in the town centre aimed at improving its physical appearance, retail reputation and overall appeal.

Coun David Sage, Deputy Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, said the funding would pave the way for an exciting new era of regeneration for the area's largest town.

He said: "Bridgend County Borough Council is hugely ambitious for the whole area. We have made good progress in Maesteg, and are delighted that our regeneration plans for Porthcawl are pressing ahead with the recent announcement of a preferred developer for the waterfront and the approval of European funds towards a scheme at the harbour.

"We have achieved a great deal in Bridgend town centre in recent years, and this announcement of fresh funding of more than £9m will really help us to accelerate our regeneration projects.

"We want to create an attractive, thriving town centre environment which preserves the historic past while building a modern future.

"Much of the work will be spent on the physical look of the town centre, preserving and enhancing historic and key buildings and upgrading properties to provide positive and attractive floorspace, but we will also be working alongside local businesses to make Bridgend a destination of choice."

Piccolo bar gets the green light

Controversial plans to extend one of the kiosks on Porthcawl's Esplanade have been approved by Bridgend planners – despite opposition from the town council and Porthcawl Civic Trust.

The application, for the Piccolo bar, was lodged by the Sidoli brothers. At the moment, the kiosk has outdoor seating areas on both sides.

They have now been given permission to extend the roof to cover this area on the eastern side of the kiosk and to fully enclose the seating area on the western side.

This will be a flat-roofed glass structure with sliding doors. The tables and chairs will be located inside although the doors will be open in fine weather.

A storage pod will also be provided to store the tables and chairs when not in use.

The proposal was described in the report that went to the development control committee as creating extensions to the roof by "wrapping a new roof around the existing building just below eaves level and extending out a "thin floating canopy" to create two covered side areas.

The report states that the design is "contemporary and minimalist" and the bright colour of the pod would highlight the "fun" of the resort.

However, Porthcawl Civic Trust Society is not happy with the proposal.

They were involved in the design of the two kiosks when they were built in the 1990's and these have been built to a traditional Victorian-Edwardian style with pitched roofs, which members feel will be incongruous with the two extensions being proposed. Their observations state: "The extensions contradict and totally ignore the principles that were fundamental to the concept of the Esplanade and the original design proposals submitted by Porthcawl Civic Trust.

"It was not the intention that the kiosks should provide an inside seating area nor was it the intention that part of the pedestrian area should be occupied by tables and chairs."

Their report states that the flat roof and sheet glass of the extensions would be in conflict with the architecture of the promenade and would harm the symmetry of the seafront design and character of this part of the Porthcawl Conservation Area.

But in his report, planning officer David Llewelyn said that it was considered that the glass enclosure with a flat roof would be a contemporary design, which would provide a delicate building that would sit comfortably on the promenade, and would not have a detrimental effect on the conservation area.

Planners conceded that good quality design is crucial in the conservation area and near the Grand Pavilion, which is a listed building.

The report went on: "It is considered that the proposed development would preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area and would not affect the public realm area of the Porthcawl Conservation area."

Permission was granted, subject to a series of planning conditions.

Car valeting business can stay trading

A CAR valeting business in Porthcawl has won the right to stay trading.

A planning application from Mr J Collett for a change of use from stables to car valeting at Jubilee Farm, Jubilee Gardens has been granted by Bridgend planners.

A petition opposing the plan was submitted by some residents of Jubilee Gardens.

They opposed the application on the grounds of possible pollution to the countryside from chemicals, problems with increased traffic and parking problems.

Residents also allege that car repairs and sales are being carried out from the site.

Planning officers have investigated the objections and state that there is no evidence to prove that cars were being repaired on site.

They are valeted and then taken elsewhere for sale.

The committee was told that the application was retrospective as the use of the buildings has commenced.

The application was received after the council started an enforcement investigation.

A previous application for the same use was rejected in April because of issues to do with the Landscape Conservation Area and because of access problems.

The new application has an amended boundary which avoids the LCA and the access will be via Jubilee Farm and not a stone track behind houses.

The building in use has been found to be in a reasonable state of repair and does not need any alterations.

Although located in the countryside, the site is adjacent to one of the main routes into town and the location is acceptable. There are no highway objections.

Planners recommended granting the application as it complies with council policy and did not adversely affect visual amenities or privacy for neighbours.

Skateboard park can go ahead

by JAYNE ISAAC

THE go-ahead has at last been given for Porthcawl's new skateboard park.

Bridgend planners approved the plan after a nine-month marathon to get the proposals off the drawing board.

Porthcawl Town Council came up with the scheme and provided half of the £90,000 funding drawing down money from BCBC and other sources to plug the gap.

Council leader David Deere said that he was delighted at the news and pledged that no more time would be wasted: "We will be in touch with Maverick, the firm which is actually building the park for us, and I hope to see work under way on site by October. It's just a shame that we could not have had it ready for this summer. But it's a case of better late than never,"

The park is being created on an open grassed area at Heol y Goedwig and the scheme had the full support of Coun Alana Davies, who represents that area of the town on both the borough and town councils.

Months of delay to the scheme, which was first submitted for approval last November, have been caused by issues to do with noise levels and highway safety. These issues were finally thrashed out at a meeting between Porthcawl councillors, borough members and council officers.

Some residents objected to the plan because of fears about noise and disturbance and an increase in anti-social behaviour in the area.

Planning officers have ruled out the objections stating that it would not generate adverse noise levels and there would be no lighting so there should be no noise problems after darkness falls.

Coun Davies said: "We have made some changes so I hope everyone is now happy. We need these type of facilities in the town, especially in this part of town, for our own young people and also for young visitors."

Rewarding the unsung heroes

THE manager of the Sarn Harvester on The Derwyn wants to reward the "unsung heroes of Bridgend, individuals who inspire, encourage and support those around them."

Local people are being urged to nominate anyone they think worthy of the Bring Out The Best Award and David Rodgers will present a special trophy to the winner, as well as reward their success with a complimentary family meal.

Mr Rodgers said: "We'd really like to reward the unsung heroes of Bridgend by making a fuss of them! The winner could be anyone, from a Brown Owl to a sports coach or lollipop lady. Either way, we're looking forward to receiving lots of entries nominating our local stars."

Residents who want to nominate someone for a Bring Out The Best Award should visit www.harvester.co.uk/bring-out-the-best-awards. The deadline is Sunday, September 12.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School's joy as GCSE records are smashed again!

Some of Porthcawl's straight A students

ABOVE: Amy Sheppard and Rachel Taylor.

ABOVE: Bethan Williams and Lauren Jones.

ABOVE: Tom Adsley, Chelsie Richardson and Abi Cunningham.

ABOVE: Chris Fontwell.

Owen Thomas.

Ross Williams.

RECORDS were smashed again at Porthcawl Comprehensive School when pupils in year-11 opened their GCSE results for 2010.

A total of 231 pupils entered approximately 2,300 examinations and achieved 580 A* or 'A' grade passes.

In addition to this, the number of entries gaining grades at A*to C was more than 74 per cent.

Well over 200 students took some of their examinations a year early while in year-10.

Of the total number of examinations entered, 99.5 per cent resulted in grades A* to G, with almost all leaving school with a qualification of some kind.

Mr Kenny Dykes, headteacher said: "All connected with the school are delighted to witness new records being set again with the outstanding number of A and A* awards being achieved by our students. They fully deserve the reward for their hard work and study.

"Back in 2009, we set an all-time record when our students smashed the 70 per cent barrier for the percentage of students gaining five or more GCSE's at A*to C.

"This year, we have matched this record and excelled again by the number of A and A* qualifications.

"We were particularly heartened that almost all of our students (99.5 per cent) finished the compulsory stage of their education with a qualification.

"Such excellent results do not happen by accident. They are the consequence of sheer effort and determination on the part of our young people. Congratulations to all."

A total of 25 pupils, nine boys and 16 girls, gained eight or more GCSEs at A* or A grade.

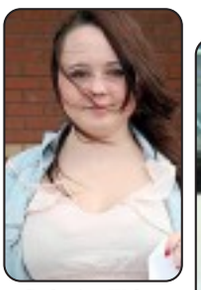
They were: Thomas Beer; Christopher Hontoir; Philip Pickett; Edward Sham; Ben Thomas; Owen Thomas; Lewis Williams; Morgan Williams; Ross Williams; Georgina Dorr; Georgina Evans; Emily Fabin; Rachel Halley; Sophie Howe; Alexandra Howells; Rebekah Jones; Harmony Miller; Lowri Patterson; Sidney Rogers; Amy Sheppard; Rachel Taylor; Nia Thomas; Jessica Townsend; Catherine Walters and Bethan Williams.

ABOVE: Hayden Lau and Sidney Rogers.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

ABOVE: It was a family affair on results day for Jessica Townsend.

Lewis Williams



Catherine Walters

LEFT: Morgan Williams.

RIGHT: Shannon Owens and Beth Williams.

BELOW: Alex Howells.

RIGHT: Harmony Miller.

ABOVE: Nathan Wooton, Kimberly Moon and Jack Davies.

All smiles on GCSE day at Porthcawl!

ABOVE: Nia Thomas and Sophie Howe.

A spring-heeled Lian Adshead.

ABOVE: Sidney's gran is quite pleased too!

LEFT: Rachel Halley and Lori Patterson.

Thomas Beer.

ABOVE: Kate Macledy, Rachel Kinsella, Lauren Bell, Alysha Jones.

Tyrell McCann.

Local Cadets collect Poppy appeal awards from Lord Lieutenant

Cpl Robert James receiving the Overall Unit winner award on behalf of Bridgend Detachment.

ABOVE: The Cadets from the Bridgend Detachment with their awards.

RECENTLY, three Cadets from Bridgend Detachment, C Company (Bridgend and Pontypridd Areas) Army Cadet Force (ACF) were presented with a record six awards from The Lord Lieutenant's Poppy Appeal Cadet awards (south east Wales).

The event was held in Pontypridd Rugby Club, with representatives from the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC), Army Cadet Force (ACF), Air Training Corps (ATC) attending.

They were presented by the Lord Lieutenant for Mid Glamorgan, Mrs Kathrin Thomas, plus various other VIPs from the police force and Fire & Rescue Service.

This annual award ceremony rewards Cadet Forces in the south east Wales area for the money they collected and hard work put in for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal during the previous year.

The south east Wales area overall individual award went to local chef Cadet Corporal (Cpl) Roberto Grech (17). Roberto also won the Service Award Army Cadet Force individual winner award.

The Service Award Army Cadet Force individual runner-up award was won by Cadet Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Mark Gillett (16), who plans to join the Army in September.

ABOVE: Cadet Sophie Walls collecting SSgt Mark Gillett's award because he was away at camp.

The south east Wales area overall unit award went to Bridgend Detachment Army Cadet Force, who raised a grand total of £3,999, £1,000 more than the unit runner-up!

Bridgend Detachment also received the Service Award Army Cadet Force unit winner award.

Cadet Lance Corporal (LCpl) Zoe Dykes (17) was presented with the Community Award Chief Fire Officer South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Award for individual endeavour.

Every cadet who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and is looking forward to working equally as hard next year!

Sgt Darija Mann (C Company PRO, Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF)

ABOVE: Cpl Roberto Grech receiving his award from Mrs Kathrin Thomas.

LCpl Zoe Dykes receiving her award.

St John Ambulance holds First Aid 'taster day' in Porthcawl

A TASTER day will be held in Porthcawl on Saturday (September 4) for anyone interested in becoming a member of St John Ambulance in Wales.

The charity will hold the open day at Trinity Church Hall from 10am, with a coffee morning to be followed by demonstrations and general tips and advice.

Members of St John Wales will be present at the St John Ambulance base to run taster sessions for adults and children and take bookings for first aid courses available in the coming weeks.

Gillian Widdrington, divisional officer in charge for Porthcawl, said:

"St John Wales has something to offer everyone. Volunteers could be part of a frontline ambulance crew, lead a team, raise thousands of pounds for our charity, use their everyday skills, work with young people, or be one of the many non-uniformed supports."

A spokesman for St John Ambulance said:

"We aim to train as many people as possible, so they can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved."

St John Cymru Wales has more than 4,500 volunteers. Between them, the 220 community groups nationwide give more than 200,000 hours and treat more than 10,000 people every year.

For more information call Gillian Widdrington on 01656 786869.

News from Sker WI

THE Sker WI did not meet in August, but line dancing restarts on Monday, September 6, at St David's Hall, Nottage.

The September meeting is on Thursday, September 9, at 7pm, when Mrs Barbara Miles will be speaking about 'Chaucer's women'.

There will be a fashion show on September 13 at 7pm at St David's Hall, Nottage, organised by Bon Marche.

All proceeds will go to ACWW's project 'Light a Candle'.

The money raised by Glamorgan Federation of WIs will finance a scheme teaching women in an Indian village to produce candles as a business venture. *Tickets are £5.*

Super slimmer 'woman of year'

JUST 34 weeks after Jayne Fry walked into Pyle Slimming World, determined to make a change to her life – for herself and her daughter – her fellow members have voted her 'Woman of the Year'.

JAYNE FRY.

Consultant Dee Heryet commented: "Jayne has been an inspiration to the group, she always has useful advice and has a heart of gold, and she is loved by all of the group.

"Jayne's journey started just 34 weeks ago, and in that time she has lost nearly six stone!

"Not once has she felt deprived, she has eaten to satisfy her appetite and enjoyed a wide variety of foods, and still had treats."

Church with the (lime) slurry on top

AN ancient hilltop church is to be partially covered in lime slurry in a bid to prevent water getting into the building.

St Cynwyd's Church in Llangynwyd, which is a Norman church with later alterations, is have its tower coated in a lime slurry. The remainder of the building will be left in its original stone.

There was a huge row in the village six years ago when the church was being renovated. At that time, Cadw were insisting that the tower was lime plastered and lime washed, but the plan was abandoned in the teeth of local opposition

Work costing £250,000 was carried out to re-point the tower and replace lead work on the roof, as well as replacing rainwater goods.

But Vicar Geraldine Blyth said that the work had not succeeded: "Cadw agreed that we could scrap the lime plaster and lime wash but it was against the advice of the architect at the time.

"They let us have the money anyway, but the water is still pouring into the tower to the point where it is starting to cause major problems.

"Unless we agree to coating the tower with lime slurry, which is thicker than lime plaster, we will have to move out within 10 years."

She commented that nobody wanted to see this done: "The tower will be a different colour to the rest of the church and this lime slurrying is a fairly new process which should last up to 20 years. It is much thicker and will protect the tower from the rain.

"We have been told that we must put a 'mackintosh' over the tower to stop the rain from penetrating."

Rev Blyth said that CADW had agreed to grant more money so that the work can be done and they have also secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund although the church also has to put up its own funds.

The scheme is expected to cost about £110,000 and work will not start until next spring – after the threat of frost has disappeared.

"I do not want to do this in my heart. I do not want the tower to look different to the rest of the church. It is a beautiful building and people come to visit from far and wide," Rev Blyth stated.

"But my head tells me that unless we do this work, we will have no church at all in 10 years. Our hearts must not rule our heads on this one."

She said that they also planned to take down an old Victorian chimney which was also letting water into the building.

"Towers are causing huge problems to almost every church that has one. This church dates from the sixth century and has been built on a hilltop which means it is exposed to all weathers."

However, a local builder who was born and brought up within yards of the church, disagrees with the advice that the church has received.

Glyn Budd, who has been closely involved over the years with the church and the churchyard, said that in his view the problem with the chimney started after the last work was done.

"The chimney is ornamental and made of dressed stone. They worked on the stonework alongside the chimney and I believe it may be something as simple as not putting the lead flashings back on. There was never any water coming in before."

He disagrees about the need for lime slurry: "The walls of the tower are about six feet thick at the base and then they taper as they go higher. The pointing that was done on the tower last time is not deep enough.

"I was going there after the workmen had finished and testing it and it did not go deeply enough between the stones. That's why the water is pouring in.

"They might as well have thrown the £250,000 they spent last time down the drain. Water cannot go through dressed stone. It penetrates through the mortar pointing unless it is thick enough."

Mr Budd agreed that lime will provide some protection against the elements and said that all the boundary walls in the village were lime washed at one time.

"I used to go around as a kid helping to do it," he said. "The old farmers always used to limewash their houses. But the lime will gradually come off – it will flake off and crack in the heat. It is not the answer," he added.

• A bat survey is being carried out at the moment before any work can take place to see if there are literally bats in the belfry.

The church has also been spending money repointing the old boundary walls of the old churchyard and also rebuilding the boundary wall of the new section that abutts the Old House car park.

VISITING COUNCILLOR HAILS GROUP'S WORK

Creation's success in Blaengarw leads way for others to follow

A VALLEY community organisation which has transformed life for local residents is setting a lead for others to follow – according to a visiting Swansea councillor.

Creation, which is based at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall, is now recognised across Britain for its work in organising a community-led regeneration in the valley.

It was set up 10 years ago and has won national awards for its work.

Creation has just played host to Swansea city councillor Rene Kinzett, who came to see for himself what was being done in the valley.

Coun Kinzett, who is leader of the Conservative group on the council, believes that Creation has things to teach not only other former mining communities but even cities like Swansea: the "Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) should be congratulated for recognising what Creation has done," he said.

"In deciding how to deliver its rural development strategy, BCBC has seen that Creation has helped revive employment, well-being and a sense of cohesion and ambition in a community left stranded by the closure of the mines.

"Instead of barging in and imposing itself, BCBC has stood back, worked with Creation and allowed it to flourish and succeed in its own way.

"Ithough it has helped fund Creation's work, it has trusted that community to know how best to face its challenges."

Mr Kinzett said that in Swansea, there was a tendency to take a top-down approach which missed the point that solutions to problems were more likely to be found in the community than in the civic offices.

The visit to Creation was arranged by Suzy Davies, who has been active in community projects in the Brecon and Radnor area where she lives.

She explained: "I visited Creation earlier this year with a representative of the Centre for Social Justice, which is an organisation that is increasingly influential in the formulation of government policy.

"I was determined that the people from that organisation should come to Wales to meet some of the country's most effective anti-poverty campaigners.

"Creation shows what communities can do for themselves if they are powerful partners in their relationship with funding bodies rather then being bossed about and steered away from self reliance."

She said that Creation was doing what the government has called for in its Big Society campaign.

"Creation has created work, rebuilt community responsibility through time-banking and street ambassadors – just two examples of its work – and rediscovered a creativity which pays dividends in so many ways. This village is alive with self respect."

Dawn Davies, who is chief executive of Creation, stated she was always happy for people to see what Creation and the people of Blaengarw have achieved.

"Thirty seven groups and more than 700 individuals in this small village are now benefiting from the Time Centre.

"The number of sustainable jobs here has grown along with the number of people coming forward to volunteer and acquire skills.

"But we are about so much more than job creation.

"We help people discover that by making decisions together and taking responsibility, we're all part of improving our environment, making our community prosper and be proud of itself.

"The story of Blaemgarw shows that if people are allowed to work with the council and other funders, then the results can be very impressive," she concluded.

Peacock's opens with 32 jobs

THIRTY TWO new jobs have been created in Maesteg with the opening today (Thursday) of the new Peacock's store.

The shop, which has taken over the old Woolworth's in Commercial Street, was being opened this morning with entertainment provided by Cor Merched Cwm Llynfi – the Maesteg Ladies Choir. The ribbon was being cut by the store manager.

The jobs include 17 full time and the rest are part time. The shop has 3,000 sq feet of retail space and should act as a draw into the town centre for shoppers.

Traders are also hoping that it will boost footfall in Commercial Street ,which has suffered a decline since the ill-fated town centre regeneration scheme which saw the loss of a number of shops as a result of the disruption caused by delays in getting the scheme completed.

The closure of Woolworth's was another body blow to the street.

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BRISTOL'S UNIQUE BALLOON FESTIVAL, COMPLETE WITH A VERY BASHFUL DRAGON!

THESE eye-catching pictures were taken by keen photographer and GEM reader Robert Fisher of Cowbridge, who was among the 500,000 enthusiasts, many of them from south Wales, drawn to the recent Bristol Hot Air Balloon Fiesta.

Now in its 32nd year, the world-famous festival, said to be the largest in Europe, attracted some highly unusual entries of all shapes and sizes, as Robert's snapshots clearly show!

There were balloons of every style, shape and size – and other curios that caught the photographer's eye, including this bunch of bananas (above) and (right) a somewhat scary-looking cow with bell!

TOP LEFT: A rather gentle and bashful-looking dragon waits to show off its flying prowess, while the gnome (left) is also poised to take to the air.

Vale highlights in the Cadw calendar

TWO of Wales' best-known heritage secrets in the Vale – St Lythan's Burial Chamber and Ogmore Castle – star in the new 2011 Cadw calendar.

Featuring some of the best-known historic sites in Wales, the calendar, which is priced at £8.95, available from most Cadw sites, also includes scenic photographs of St David's bishop's palace in Pembrokeshire; Valle Crucis Abbey and Rhuddlan Castle in Denbighshire; Neath Abbey; Tretower Court in Brecknockshire; Beaumaris Castle on Anglesey; Cymer Abbey in Gwynedd and Raglan Castle, Kidwelly Castle and Dryslwyn Castle in Carmarthenshire.

Diane Williams, head of Cadw Publications, said: "We commissioned some stunning new photography this year and are very pleased with the finished calendar.

"As well as featuring some of Wales's most visited sites, such as Beaumaris and Kidwelly Castles, we've also photographed some of the 'hidden jewels' in our care – such as the serene ruins of Cymer Abbey and the fascinating St Lythans Burial Chamber near Barry.

"The calendar is a perfect pictorial accompaniment for any busy household or office wall."

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D633.

- **£2000:** 569853.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £5,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 358670, 307280, 887990, 346097, 366801, 549970, 450151, 143053, 131199, 206581, 572583, 887884, 591744, 801794, 173148, 691477, 678663, 260397, 268893, 110598.
- **£5:** 713662, 757557, 269461, 944808, 228326, 702678, 840092, 111135, 887695, 221783, 509432, 203795, 226104, 543028, 395495, 102300, 376736, 919191, 447997, 395650, 747826, 781504, 446231, 174245, 852280, 850427, 166701, 520181, 652510, 261672, 855346, 618065, 530136, 363075, 477207, 263428, 862878, 633273, 768312, 893972, 471143, 633138, 117967, 569529, 120880, 685186, 640433, 679071, 844174, 764765, 521075, 664897, 419144, 558222, 406390, 575322, 355116, 578129, 267541, 817482.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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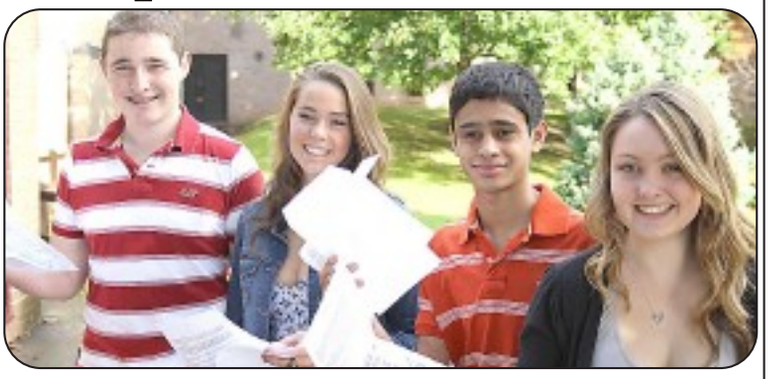
Llandaff school celebrates 100 per cent achievement



Left to right: Year-11 students Michael Griffin, Holly Lidbury, Rohan Hemmadi and Annie Wood celebrate their GCSE results.

THE Cathedral School Llandaff, Cardiff's, has reported 100 per cent of its year-11 pupils achieving seven or more GCSEs at A*-C, with 63 per cent of the grades being A* or A.

There were particularly strong performances in mathematics, sciences, ICT, history, German and sport.

The school's head girl, Holly Lidbury, who gained 13A*/A grades said: "My A* in art is a miracle! I never thought I would do so well; there were so many tears involved in doing the subject off timetable, as an addition to everything else. I'm over the moon!"

Other pupils who have done particularly well include Rohan Hemmadi of St Fagans, who gained 11 A*/A grades, Michael Griffin of Penarth who secured 11 A*/A grades and Annie Wood of Dinas Powys who gained 12 A*/A grades.

The Cathedral School's headmaster, Stephen Morris said:

"We are delighted at these results and very proud of our pupils and staff. The unique offering at the Cathedral School ensures that pupils achieve highly academically, without sacrificing their other interests; they continue to play sport at a very high level, excel in the arts and rehearse and perform wonderful music. We have recently announced ambitious development plans for the school, including the provision of a sixth form, and we look forward to sustaining academic excellence up to the age of 18 in due course."

The Cathedral School has a mixed ability intake but has been, for the last six years, one of the highest achieving schools in Wales at GCSE, with equally strong achievements for boys and girls.

The year-11 cohort consisted of 57 boys and girls from Cardiff and the surrounding area.

The school will host an open morning on Saturday, October 9 from 10am-12.30pm.

ADVICE SURGERY

RHOOSE councillors Jeffrey James and Gordon Kemp will be holding an advice surgery on Saturday, September 4 at the Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart road, Rhoose from 10am-12noon. No appointment is necessary.

TOP OF THE GCSE TABLE!

ABOVE: Seven of Barry Comprehensive School's top achievers – Ben Callow, Jeff Bevan, Kyle Harfoot, Christopher Newby, Tomas Ellis, George Scott and Caelum Davies.

An 'outstanding set' of results at Barry Comp

RIGHT: Successful students Sam Rimell, Ieuan Thomas and Joseph Smit were the first to register with Mr Bourton to return to the Sixth Form.

BARRY Comprehensive School GCSE students and their teachers are celebrating another "outstanding set" of results, with the top 10 pupils amassing 121 A* and A grades between them.

Jeff Bevan, Ben Callow, Caelum Davies, Tomas Ellis, Kyle Harfoot, Luke James, Lewis Jenkins, Lloyd Jones, Christopher Newby and George Scott are top of a results table that saw pupils achieve excellent grades right across the school's wide range of GCSE, Welsh Baccalaureate, Diploma, BTEC and GNVQ qualifications.

Overall, 70 per cent of students achieved five or more A*- C grade GCSE or equivalent qualifications, with 38 per cent of students achieving 10 or more A*- C grades.

Headteacher David Swallow said: "Everyone at the school is proud of this years examination results, particularly with the high number of top grades.

"Through their own hard work, and the support provided by the school, students are now well placed to make the best of future opportunities in education and training.

"We wish all our GCSE students good luck with their future endeavours, and look forward to welcoming many students back to continue their studies with us in the Sixth Form."

Howell's school celebrates

HOWELL'S girls again gained "outstanding" GCSE results, with 46 per cent of the girls in year-11 achieving all A* or A.

Said Mrs Sally Davis, principal of Howell's: "I am delighted that our students have been rewarded with such impressive results.

"The students and staff have worked extremely hard and this success is well deserved. Many congratulations to everyone,"

"We look forward to welcoming the girls to the Sixth Form College."

Fibromyalgia support

THe Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group's monthly meeting will be held on September 7, in the Barry public library at 10am-12.30pm.

Anyone who suffers from Fibromyalgia, or seeks information on the long-term health condition, will be welcome.

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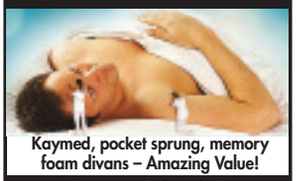

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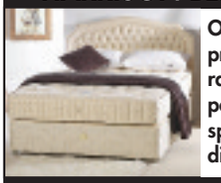

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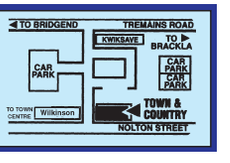

Plaid claim Vale court review is 'a sham'

PLAID CYMRU'S Dr Ian Johnson has claimed that a consultation into whether the Vale of Glamorgan Magistrates' Court should stay open appears to be "a sham".

Dr Johnson, who is the Plaid candidate for next year's Assembly elections, pointed out that the administration changes, which will see Barry-based staff moved to other courts in south Wales, will come into effect in the same week as the consultation on keeping the court open comes to an end.

Dr Johnson said: "This is a consultation which many people believe is a sham and is purely aimed at closing the Vale Magistrates' Court in Barry.

"The Conservative government's timing of the consultation is appalling. We are several weeks away from the end of the consultation but getting information is very difficult due to the holiday season."

Dr Johnson said he was shocked to hear that administrative changes were continuing to be pushed through which would see staff moved out of Barry to other courts in south Wales.

"This makes no sense as the consultation is asking for opinions on the operation of a court which will be working very differently by the time that decisions are made on its future."

Dr Johnson demanded the coalition government re-think its plans.

"These administration changes should be stopped now until a decision has been made on the court's future.

"Justice should be served locally and the Vale should keep a fully operating magistrates' court.

"In the last three years, more than 20,000 cases have been heard there, and millions of pounds have been spent recently on upgrading the cells and the building, money that will be wasted if the court is closed."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said that rather than making political capital, Dr Johnson should reflect the fact that there was cross-party support in favour of keeping the court open.

He said: "Local magistrates, charitable groups and I are doing all we can to respond to the consultation to show that there is a strong case for the Vale Magistrates' Court to stay open.

"It would be more helpful if Dr Johnson also responded to show that there is a cross-party approach on this issue.

"Simply seeking to make party political points won't save the court. Showing that costs will increase for the police if the court closes will have a much better impact. Shouting from the sidelines won't get us anywhere."

Mr Cairns added: "I have another meeting with the magistrates scheduled for today (September 2) to ensure that we are co-ordinating our actions in the best way.

"Responses need to be submitted to the Ministry of Justice by September 15."

POLICE APPEAL

POLICE in Barry are appealing to the public for information regarding two incidents of lewd behaviour on Saturday (August 28) between 4.30pm and 4.45pm.

A police spokesman said that a white, ginger - haired man was seen exposing himself in the area known as the 'Golden Steps', which links Marine Parade and Porthkerry Park in Barry.

He was wearing a black cap, black top and black shorts, possibly with a white drawing or picture on the top. He was about five feet five inches tall, in his late 30s or early 40s, possibly with a mole on his left cheek.

Detective Constable Mark Glover of Barry CID said: "This man was seen on two occasions in the area of the Golden Steps in Barry on Saturday afternoon and we would like to speak to anyone who may recognise him."

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Please join us on Wednesday, September 15 at Trio; guest membership for the evening is just £6. Please contact us to book via email at members@vwbn.org.uk. (For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, feel free to email members@vwbn.org.uk)

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It includes traditional songs and finger rhymes, a listening activity, movement, dance and mime together, and exploring sound makers and musical instruments.

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Tuneful Tots is led by the musical performance of a teacher who directs her experiences into encouraging pre-school children and their families.

Joyce is known in the Vale for her voluntary director commitment to her two specialist flute ensembles 'High Winds' and 'Light Breeze' and has recently performed at the Blaenavon Heritage Centre, and the Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Centre.

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"Redundancy was initially a knock to my confidence and I immediately went into panic mode. I was devastated as I had worked for International Greetings for more than 20 years and expected to retire from there."

However, after doing some research, Viv discovered that Pitman Training offered a wide range of courses that employers and recruitment agencies recognise.

Viv Chapman.

"I remember plucking up enough courage to attend the initial meeting at Pitman Training Cardiff, thinking that I could not do anything other than my job at International Greetings. The centre was very helpful and friendly, which is so important when you are feeling so vulnerable. I came out of that meeting with the first glimmer of hope since losing my job."

Viv decided to complete the Medical Secretarial Diploma, something she had wanted to do since leaving school but had never had the opportunity.

"Pitman Training told me that funding may be available to retrain under ReAct, a scheme set up by the Welsh Assembly Government with support from the European Social Fund to help individuals who are newly redundant. We talked about the Medical Secretarial Diploma and I decided that it was the perfect course for me."

For Viv, one of the major benefits of studying with Pitman Training was the flexibility the centre offered.

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Forget the World... **Scott Pilgrim takes on this film critic - and slays him!**

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

BRITISH director Edgar Wright has enjoyed a steady climb up the ladder from television to Hollywood.

Having cut his teeth helming both series of cult (and well worth checking out) sitcom *Spaced,* Wright moved onto the big screen with *Spaced* star Simon Pegg for 2004's *Shaun of the Dead* and then with 2007's *Hot Fuzz.*

With a directing style that is resolutely his own, Wright has won many admirers in Tinseltown, and makes his American film bow with this graphic novel adaption, *Scott Pilgrim vs The World.*

Scott (played by Michael Cera) is the bassist in Toronto band Sex Bob-omb, and his world is turned upside down when he meets Ramona Flowers (Mary Elizabeth Winstead).

Not only does he fall for her, he also discovers that if he wants to win her heart he'll need to defeat her seven evil exes, a group who are intent on stopping Scott before he's even started...

Scott Pilgrim... is not your usual boy-meets-girl romantic film; in fact, it's not like your usual film full stop.

Instead, it is a work that mixes and mashes style and genres to dizzying effect, creating a film that is something wonderful to behold - and something that, while not to everyone's tastes, is a jaw-dropping effort.

Those unfamiliar with the source material (such as myself) need not worry, as there is little in the way of keeping the story strictly for the hardcore fanbase; instead, it whirrs by on the universal nature of the story, yet presents itself so uniquely that it burns into your brain, and much of this is down to Edgar Wright's direction.

Those versed in his work on *Spaced* will hardly be shocked by the genre hopping and ability to cram so many elements together, but *Scott Pilgrim...* is Wright, to steal a Spinal Tap parlance, turned up to 11.

The danger, of course, if left untempered is that it would be easy for Wright to fall into the trap of being too self-indulgent, yet he shows both considerable creativity and a pleasing level of restraint.

Consider the action sequences (superbly handled by Wright, a relative novice to the genre), with their zooms, fast cuts and special effects, and compare them to the quieter moments, such as Scott and Ramona's first 'date', and you can see that there is more to Wrights direction that just 'wham-bam'. Instead, he shows he is just as capable of being loud and bombastic as is of being quiet and poised.

He also makes a clever allusion to video games, specifically those of the 1990s. Treating the film as one long game, complete with extra lives and weapons, there is wit and tender homage in these moments that are wonderfully done, while the Batman-esque 'thwacks' and 'pows' are similar humorous yet completely fitting.

Wright's direction is the tool that propels the film, its kinetic energy lending itself perfectly to the pacing of the film, and the screenplay, adapted by Wright and Michael Bacall, complements the direction wonderfully well.

Given the episodic nature of the story, the film could have been stop-start, yet there is enough going on, with several supporting characters given a pleasing level of importance, that it flows with ease.

The cast are all very much up to the job in hand across the board, the performances hitting the spot and offering something memorable.

With the majority of screentime, and numerous stunts and fights to pull off, Scott Pilgrim may be the most rounded performance of Michael Cera's career thus far.

The character and performance engages throughout, and you are perpetually rooting for Pilgrim in his battle against the evil exes.

As the object of his affection, Mary Elizabeth Winstead offers a winning turn as the mysterious newcomer who becomes the centre of Scott's world.

The actress' turn is cool but with a huge degree of likeability, and hopefully, this film will show how skilled an actress Winstead is.

The supporting players all have their chances to shine in developed characters, from Kieran Culkin as Scott's roommate, Anna Kendrick as his sister, Ellen Wong as Knives Chau, and Mark Webber and Alison Pill as Scott's bandmates.

Meanwhile, the evil exes are played with glorious aplomb by the likes of Chris Evans, Brandon Routh and Jason Schwartzman – there is nary a lacking performance in the film.

If there is a complaint to be made about this film, it is that is so unabashedly its own beast and plays by its own rules that it will cause those not sold on it to deem it a piece of work that is far too self indulgent and off-centre to work.

Well, those may feel they have a point, but to do so would be overlooking a bravura film whose stylistic tics and headache-inducing visuals are all part of the larger picture – and what a picture it is, as *Scott Pilgrim vs The World* is truly superb.

VERDICT - Utterly compelling, visually inventive and, at times, breathtaking, *Scott Pilgrim vs The World* is Edgar Wright's tour-de-force – a film that truly highlights how skilled a film maker he is.

With an excellent soundtrack and a cast that is uniformly superb, this is one film that will rattle your brain and resonate for a long time afterward.

Essential viewing.

All smiles at St Richard Gwyn

LEFT: There were smiles all round at St Richard Gwyn on GCSE results day.

HEADTEACHER Mike Clinch was all smiles as his students picked up their results from the GCSE exams at St Richard Gwyn in Barry last week.

The school's results were 10 per cent above the Vale "best possible" target, as 62 per cent of pupils gained five or more A-C grades.

The 120 pupils gained a total of 239 A or A* grades between them.

The girls were particularly pleased as they walked away with their results, especially Ellie Davies (eight A*s and two As) and Ankita Benny (seven A*s and three As)

However, the boys weren't far behind, despite all the stories about boys' lack of achievement, as Shannon Horrigan (eight A*s, one A and a B), Joseph Brophy (four A*s, five As and a B), Dan Giernalczyk (four A*s, five As and a B), and Ibrahim Yasin (five A*s, five As and a B).

The head boy and girl Jess Dawe and Jordan Moore notched up 19 A*s and As, as well as keeping the prefects in order and assisting staff in many school events throughout the year.

Chaplain Nicky Price said: "It is a great day to see our students and staff who have worked so hard, receiving the results they deserve.

"The staff are as excited as year-11 and today shows what a brilliant school we have here

"The students can go onto St David's College, knowing that they have a solid foundation to build on."

JAMAICAN SINGER LINKS UP WITH CHOIR

A JAMAICAN-born opera singer who was a hit with the Maesteg audience when he appeared in the town last year is to make a return visit.

Robert Winslade Anderson has been booked by Cor Merched Cwm Llynfi as their guest at their annual concert next week at the Town Hall.

Mr Anderson, who has a powerful bass voice, has sung with a number of British based opera companies, including the Welsh National Opera, and is now building his reputation world wide in both operatic performances and recitals.

Choir chairman Jayne Isaac said that they were delighted to welcome him back to the Llynfi Valley.

"Robert made a huge impression when he appeared with Cor Meibion last year and we were lucky enough to secure his services as our guest this year.

"We are all looking forward to the concert, especially as we had such a wonderful time last year when Welsh brothers Mark and Wynne Evans appeared together as Fratello. It should be a great night again."

The concert takes place on Friday, September 10, at 7pm. The choir will be under the direction of Paul Deenik Bradley and their accompanist is Huw Morgan.

Tickets are £7 with reductions for children. They are available from the Town Hall box office most mornings.

Porthcawl schoolgirl proves foreign language barrier can be broken!

ABOVE:
Madeleine with her family and on the left, Carol Clint, headmistress of St John's.

A 14-YEAR-OLD Porthcawl Comprehensive pupil has achieved an outstanding result in her German GCSE, which she took two years early in year-9.

Madeleine Williamson-Sarll, who sat the exam at St John's School, attained the top A* grade, even though she was just 13 when she sat most of the papers.

Madeleine, together with her younger sister Felicity, has been raised bi-lingually by her mother Caroline, who tutored Madeleine at home before the exam.

"We are absolutely thrilled with this result," said Caroline. "Madeleine and her younger sister Felicity have always shown an aptitude for German, as I have spoken it to them since they were babies, but it was still an enormous challenge for Madeleine to cover all the course material in such a short space of time.

"I only started teaching her properly last autumn, so we had to cram a two-year syllabus into six months. I am immensely proud of the way Madeleine rose to the challenge at such a young age."

Madeleine said: "It was quite difficult having my mum teaching me at home – and there were lots of arguments along the way – but I'm glad I persevered now. The next challenge will be to keep my German ticking over until I reach the sixth form, as I'm hoping to study it at A-level."

Mrs Carol Clint, headteacher at St John's, said: "We have a vibrant modern languages department here at St John's, with all our pupils starting French at the age of four and German at eight.

Mum Caroline also believes that Madeleine's results prove the importance of learning a second language from a very young age: "I have struggled to bring the girls up bi-lingually, as German is not my mother tongue – but this result proves that I was right to persevere.

"I would urge other parents who can speak another tongue to do the same with their children.

"We need to reverse the continuing decline in foreign language learning in this country, which has reached all all-time low.

"It's not been an easy option – as well as maintaining the daily conversation in German at home, I have had to arrange regular "immersion" trips to Germany for the girls.

Spastic Diplegia

THIS is a form of cerebral palsy which affects children through delayed muscle growth, resulting in difficulty with balance and co-ordination.

Ogmore Valley male voice choir is holding a concert to help raise funds to send four-year-old Finlay Brunt to America for an operation. His parents are desperately trying to raise £40,000 to cover the cost of the trip.

The concert is being held at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale, on September 25 at 7pm.

Tickets are £5 or £4 for children and pensioners, available on 01656 840581/841078.

The choir will be joined by two soloists, one of whom is young boy soprano Rhydian Jenkins from Maesteg, who came first in a competition at this year's Urdd Eisteddfod.

The other soloist is Catrin Eleri Jenkin, who took first place in the Miners' Eisteddfod in 2000 and came second in the National Eisteddfod at St David's in 2002.

Mine disaster

BRYNCETHIN mining disaster was yet another example of the cost of coal mining in this area.

The colliery was owned by the Barrow Steam Coal Company and was mined for house coal.

The company wanted to exploit the steam coal which lay at a deeper depth, but while sinking a shaft on September 26, 1874, part of a cast iron crab winch broke.

Seven men standing on staging fell 30 feet into a sump, which contained water 12 foot deep.

Two men managed to save themselves by hanging onto a bowk, but the others drowned. They were: S Llewellyn aged 36; W Franks aged 23; T Davies aged 23; all masons; J Rook aged 23; C Howell aged 27 (both were sinkers).

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Opening ceremony

OVER the last few years, Newcastle Higher Community Council has consulted residents in Aberkenfig on what they would like to see in the Square, and engaged architects McGregor Smith to draw up plans.

These were displayed in the local library and residents overwhelmingly gave their approval.

The council (in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) the owners of the land) instructed builders Gerald Davies Ltd to begin the restoration work.

The scheme, which consists of attractive paving, seating, raised flower beds together with decorative fencing and a new War Memorial (supplied by Edwards Memorials) has now been completed.

On Friday, September 10, there is to be an opening ceremony when the Leader and Mayor of BCBC, Janice Gregory AM, borough and community councillors will be in attendance.

Ministers from local churches will be dedicating the new war memorial, which is now in the centre of the village.

Pupils from local schools will present music and poetry.

The schools taking part will be Tondu Primary, St Robert's Catholic Primary, Pandy Infants, Pen-y-Fai Church in Wales Primary and the PRU.

All members of the public are welcome to attend at 1.30pm.

Tax advice

RECOMMENDED by the Citizen's Advice Bureau and Help the Aged, an organisation, Tax Help for Older People will be giving advice to elderly people on dealing with the Inland Revenue at Pencoed Library on September 14.

It would be advisable, but not essential, to make an appointment by telephoning 0845 601 3321.

Coach trip

Aberkenfig Retired Persons Club, which is organising a coach trip to Neath fair on Thursday, September 9, still has a couple of spare seats available.

For more information, telephone Joyce/Tom on 01656 720823/720026.

Charity concert

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is performing in a charity concert to raise funds for Alzheimer's research at St Michael's Church, Maesteg, on Friday, September 3, at 7pm.

Maesteg Maesteg and District Male Choir (Cor Meibion Maesteg A'r Cylch) under musical director for the last 12 years, Rhian Yasmin Ali, and accompanist of 11 years, Ryan Wood, together with two soloists, young tenor Aled Williams and soprano Rhian Hughes, will be taking part in a concert to raise funds for Saint Cynwyd's Church, Llangynwyd, on September 9 at 7pm.

FRIENDS ATTEND PARC SLIP MEMORIAL DAY GATHERING

THE annual gathering of Friends of the Parc Slip Disaster memorial committee took place as usual on August 26 at the memorial at The Fountain, Aberkenfig.

Approximately 20 people attended, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough Council and the chairman of Cefn Cribbwr Community Council, Mrs Ceri Griffiths, in addition to supporters who include descendants of those involved in the disaster in 1892, when 112 men and boys lost their lives.

This year, the gathering also remembered in prayer those miners currently trapped underground in Chile, proving that mining continues to be a most dangerous profession.

After this early sojourn in quite damp conditions, the Friends moved to the nature centre, where the permanent exhibition is located, for a social get together.

The committee welcomes support from local people so that the heritage and memory of this important portion of local history can be passed on. Contact 01656 649585.

BB

Local people gather to remember the Parc Slip mining disaster.

OH! WHAT'S OCCURRIN'?

On tour with Gavin and Stacey at Barry Island

All aboard for the grand** (Gavin and Stacey) **tour!

BARRY'S latest tourist attraction, a coach tour of locations where the hit TV series Gavin and Stacey was filmed, is now up and running in the Vale.

The GEM sent work experience student, Martha Rogers, along to join the tourists on the trip. This is her report:

SINCE *Gavin and Stacey* hit our television screens in 2007, Barry has become a tourist magnet for visitors from across the world.

A *Gavin and Stacey* tour bus introduced earlier this year is regularly filled with fans wanting to see for themselves local locations used in the TVseries.

As a *Gavin and Stacey* fan myself, I didn't want to pass up a chance to go on the tour bus. I was surprised that the majority of people on the bus were English holidaymakers, showing that the show really has drawn people from far and wide.

One fan, Nick Wright, says it was partly the reason why he came to Wales, 'We probably wouldn't have come here on holiday if it wasn't for *Gavin and Stacey*, but we wanted to see all the sets!

"When we heard about the tour through a website, it seemed perfect - exactly what we were looking for!"

The show has attracted a huge following over its three-year run. The tour takes in sets such as Stacey's house, the church where Nessa and Dave almost got married, and where baby Neil was baptized, Nessa's 'slots arcade', Smithy's local, 'Marco's' - where Stacey worked in the third series - and Barry Island - home to *Gavin and Stacey*.

The friendly tour guide, Brenda Tucker Lowell, was very knowledgeable about the show. She said: "There has been a lot of interest in the tour bus, with people coming from all over the world; in fact, we've had hardly any Welsh people at all!

"We've had English, Irish, Australian and Canadians. We're full nearly every tour, it's been very popular!"

So, what has made Gavin and Stacey so popular? Steven and Kelly Castles from Berkshire said: "We love the show because it's so funny, it's easy to watch, and also romantic.

"Our daughter also watches it, she was so jealous when we rang her up last night and told her we were going on this tour!"

The tour was very lively with Uncle Bryn's version of 'Islands in the Stream' blaring on the bus ('Dave's Coaches' from the series).

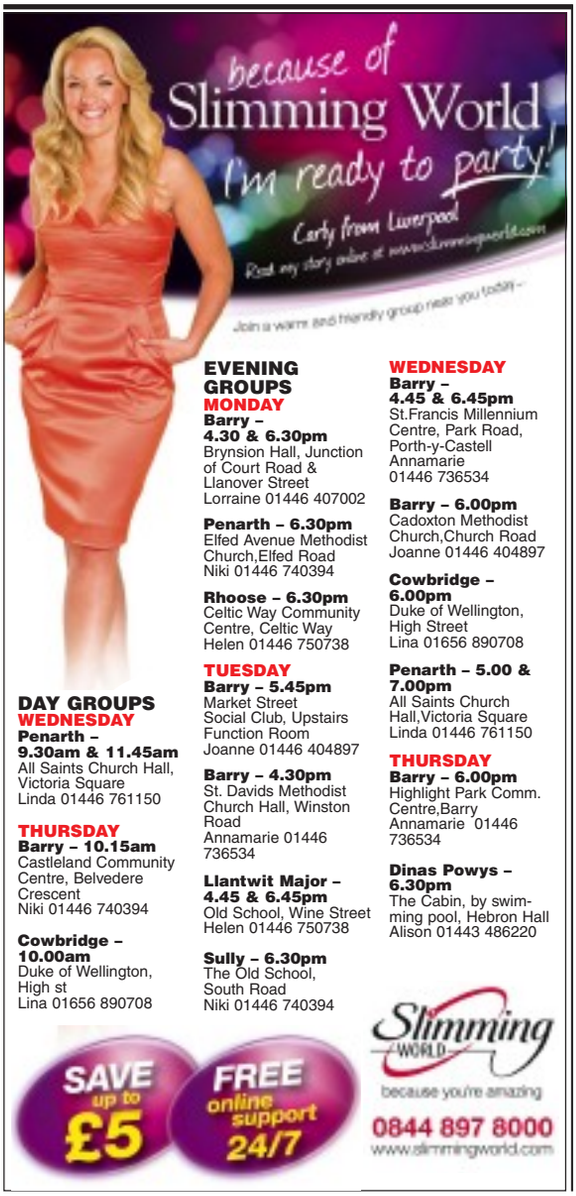
Lyric sheets were handed out for a sing-a-long, quiz questions were asked throughout the tour, and there was also a prize given out to whoever could ask a *Gavin and Stacey* related question that no one else knew the answer to.

Russell Wells, who was also on the bus, said: "I would definitely reccomend this tour to friends. I was looking forward to going on 'Dave's Coaches' and seeing the church - the tour as a whole was fantastic."

The tour costs £20 per person, £70 for a family ticket (two adults and two children aged under12) or £80 for a group of five

The bus picks people up at Barry Island station and leaves at 10am and 1.30pm.

To book call 0844 2471 007, or visit www.britmovietours.com.BARRY'S



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Just a small cup of coffee makes a Big difference!

THIS year's World's Biggest Coffee Morning takes place on Friday, September 24; however, you can help raise money before then by popping in to your local M&S Café – the new official partner of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Until Saturday, September 25, every M&S Café will donate 10 per cent of the value of a range of products, including Victoria sponge, carrot cake, bacon sandwiches, egg and cress sandwich and chocolate brownies!

In addition, to celebrating the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, M&S Cafés will donate 50p for every coffee sold on the day, to help raise £8million for Macmillan to continue providing services which help make a real difference to the lives of people affected by cancer.

Once you've enjoyed the M&S Café experience, you won't be able to resist signing up to host your own World's Biggest Coffee Morning event.

It couldn't be easier – sign up, then check out Macmillan's website for recipes, grab the apron, create chaos in the kitchen and whip up a frenzy of mouth-watering treats for your guests.

Whether you do it at work, in the pub, at the cricket club or around your kitchen table, anyone can help Macmillan continue to provide vital services which help make a real difference to the lives of people affected by cancer.

Two million people in the UK are living with cancer, and one in three will be diagnosed during their lifetime.

Every donation, whether 50p or £50, will help Macmillan to continue providing much needed support.

This could be practical help with everyday tasks, financial advice and assistance to help with the unexpected costs of cancer, emotional support, or expert medical care from a Macmillan professional.

Coffee Morning falls on September 24, but you can hold one whenever it is convenient for you. Just one small mug of coffee really can make a big difference – so to make that cuppa count, register now at www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 070 1315.

GWYNETH WAS ONE OF FIRST NURSES IN AREA

One of the first Macmillan nurses in the area was Gwyneth Poacher, who has been the driving force behind the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Ton Kenfig.

Last year, she was invited to No 10 Downing Street to meet the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown and his wife Sarah.

Gwyneth travelled with members of the Sandville team who are pictured above.

(Gwyneth is standing between the Prime Minister and the Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon.)

At Macmillan, the good days really matter

IF you're affected by cancer, the good days really matter – the day you understand more about your cancer treatment, the day you learn you're entitled to financial support, the day you get to really talk about what's on your mind.

That is why Macmillan is so important to so many people.

So, if you want to know more about a particular cancer, test or treatment, need benefits advice, or just want to chat, get in touch.

Please call us free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am-8pm) or visit us online at macmillan.org.uk

Top celebrity choices to inspire your coffee morning

PUT a smile on your mug and help change lives by signing up for Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning on September 24!

This year, to inspire us to take part and get creative in the kitchen, a selection of celebrities have kindly shared what their favourite coffee morning treats are, including TV presenter Claudia Winkleman, who swears by delicious blueberry muffins.

Claudia said: "Blueberry muffins are delicious, ready in a few simple steps, and so moreish that I'll have to quadruple the quantities for guests at my Macmillan coffee morning!"

Dame Judi Dench, Lynda Bellingham, Samantha Cameron, Martin Clunes and Katherine Jenkins have also shared their favourite coffee morning treats such as cupcakes, chocolate truffles, carrot cake, and giant cookies.

To inspire the budding bakers among you, the Macmillan website has all these recipes, plus many more, all provided by Silver Spoon, official category partner of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning 2010.

They can be found at ***www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee.***

Whether in the office, a local pub, the town hall or in your own front room, we're sure that your guests will love your homemade cakes.

They may even whip up a frenzy of delectable treats themselves, all to help Macmillan raise £8.3m to support people affected by cancer.

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Out and About with The GEM

Audition time for pantomime society

FOLLOWING the success of the 'meet and greet' evening, the Llantwit Major Pantomime Society will be holding the first auditions at 10am on Sunday, September 5 in the Llantonian Hall for children who would like a chance to be in their forthcoming production of Puss in Boots.

Children must be at least eight years of age by February 24, 2011. An adult must accompany all children below the age of 14. Rehearsals will be held every Sunday morning from 10am-12noon in the Llantonian Hall.

Anyone interested in any aspect of the pantomime is welcome to attend on Tuesday, September 7 in the Llantwit Major comprehensive school hall at 7.30pm when the first auditions for adults begin.

Rehearsals for adults will be every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm-9.30pm in the school hall. The planned production dates are February 24-26 with a total of four shows.

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CHARITY LINE DANCE AT LLANHARAN FOR KYLE

A CHARITY line dance will be held at Llanharan Rugby Club on Saturday, September 4 (8pm until late) in aid of the Kyle's Goal charity.

A charity spokeswoman said: "Kyle Beere was a typically fit, healthy and intelligent 12-year-old boy with a promising football career in front of him.

"On November 14, 2009, he walked into the accident and emergency unit with a severe headache. What was unknown at the time was that he was suffering a massive brain haemorrhage caused by a rare condition called Arteriovenous Malformations (AVM)."

Kyle, who lives in Cardiff, has so far had two major and two minor brain surgeries, along with a tracheotomy at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW).

The spokeswoman said: "Thanks to his love for life and the excellent medical teams at the hospital, Kyle has defied all the odds and is making excellent progress every day.

"He is however, now in the unenviable position of having to relearn all cognitive and motor skills, e.g. learning to walk and talk again, that would have previously come naturally to him.

"We cannot underestimate the huge challenge that Kyle still has to face."

Kyle's family thought the rehabilitation would take place at either the new Children's Hospital for Wales, or at the long-established rehabilitation centre at Rookwood Hospital.

However, Rookwood only accepts patients of 16 years or older and there is no rehabilitation facility at UHW or anywhere else in Wales and the South West.

The nearest suitable facility is in Tadworth, Surrey, and is 160 miles away from Kyle's friends and family.

The charity's aim is to raise funds for a similar unit in south Wales.

WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

LIFT group

THE voluntary organisation LIFT (Life Is For Today) is a self-help group which supports those affected by breast cancer.

The next LIFT group meeting will be in Cowbridge on Wednesday, September 8 between 10am-1pm for therapies, and again on Wednesday, September 11, 2pm-4pm for an arts and crafts demonstration. New members welcome.

Contact Hilary on 01446 749756, or Anne on 01446 772843 for further information.

Plaid advice

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any issues or concerns with Plaid councillors, Caroline Turner and Barry Shaw, joined by Keith Stockdale, at Holton Primary School, Pyke Street, Barry from 11am-12noon on Saturday, September 11.

No appointments are necessary.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog s Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Shy Bobby likes quiet home life

THIS week: Bobby Bobster is a four and a half year old Collie cross.

Bobby Bobster.

A spokeswoman reports: He is a sweet and sensitive dog. He can be shy and lack confidence and likes his own space. He loves his toys and will happily play fetch all day given the chance!

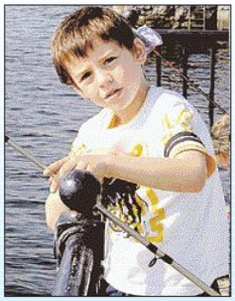
He mixes with other dogs, but is best suited as the only dog in the home. He is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours.

Type of home needed: He will need a quiet home environment with an experienced owner who is used to Collie types. He is not suitable with children and needs an adult only home.

In the right home, given time and patience, Bobby will make a lovely, rewarding companion.

Another community event sponsored by

The GEM



'The Vale's favourite newspaper' announces this year's Grand Annual

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Sponsored walk for Age Concern

AGE CONCERN'S Western Vale Good Neighbour Scheme is holding a sponsored walk on Saturday, September 4.

The walk will start at 10am from the Age Concern office, 1 Commercial Street, Llantwit Major. From the office, walkers will take the road down to the beach and after a short rest, will return to the office for tea and cakes.

Proceeds from the walk will be used to fund the Christmas Party for Good Neighbour Scheme clients.

All walkers welcome, family, friends and dogs included.

For more information, please telephone Glynis Somerville, the scheme co-ordinator on 01446 795549.

CYPIC's splash

CYPIC (Children and Young People In the Community) has run another summer programme for the Castleland Community in partnership with SPLASH, the Youth Offending Service.

Activities are continuing, so if you would like more information on the summer programme or other CYPIC projects, please contact the Drop in Centre on 01446 403549 and ask for Soraya Cordle.

Dance! Dance!! Dance!!!
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Evening WI set for Pencoed

THE WI is planning to open a new evening WI in Pencoed at St David's Church Hall.

Ladies are invited to come along for a chat, a cuppa and to hear more about the WI at the hall on Wednesday, September 15 at 7.30pm.

For more information, please telephone 01639 881588.

Olympic stamp winners

THE winners of a pack of Olympic stamps are:

Jocelyn James, Boverton; Phil Murphy, Rhoose Point; Mary Thomas, Penarth; Ivy Payne, Barry; Liz Richfield, St Athan; Brian Fisher, Dinas Powys; Mrs C Evans, Cwmbran; Mr E Powell, Pencoed; Mrs A King, Pencoed; GM Holmes, Boverton; Mrs LD Good, Sully; Mrs MR Hunter, Cowbridge; Mrs MJ Cassom, Barry; Jessica Cooper, Llantwit Major; Mrs I Morgan, Barry; Kathy Edwards, Dinas Powys; WE Dunn, Sully; MM Gordge, Llantwit Major; Mr G Sutcliffe, Cowbridge; Mrs B Burden, Llantwit Major.

Congratulations to you all!

Out and About with The GEM

'Vale on the Road' to show vision for the future of the area

LOCAL residents will have a chance to air their views to Vale Council cabinet members and council officers on the area's future this month.

Vale on the Road will be at Barry's King Square, in the town centre, and Art Central gallery, in the Town Hall, between 10am and 1pm on September 11 to meet residents.

Leader of the Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "During the months of September and October in 2009, cabinet members visited Barry, Rhoose and Penarth. The cabinet members, including myself, and our officers enjoyed meeting with residents. Hearing the views of local people first-hand is extremely useful to us.

"Following the success of last year's events, we planned a similar format for this year, starting with Barry. We look forward to meeting people at this year's events."

Other dates

September 15, *Llantwit Major – Llantwit Major Comprehensive 6.30pm-8.30pm.*

September 25, *Penarth – Paget Rooms 10am-1pm.*

IN BRIEF

Waterfront Festival

THE Barry Waterfront Festival takes place this Saturday (September 4) at 10am-10pm; and Sunday) at 11am-7pm.

On Sunday, there will also be a thanksgiving service to the armed forces and Merchant Navy at 10am. All are welcome.

A public reading/recital of Barry Seamen, penned by Captain Joe Earl, will be part of the service.

Flower Club

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club will hold a meeting at 7.30pm on September 8 at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, when Julie Pearce will give a demonstration entitled 'One Step through the clouds'.

Dyffryn House inspires Vale artists' exhibition

AN exhibition of new work by Vale artist group, VOGA , will be held at Dyffryn House from September 11 to October 10.

Penarth-based painter, Pauline Williams, said: "My art is mainly about human figures in the landscape, and my painting 'Long Roman Days' is a modern painting of an ancient subject that I sketched at Dyffryn's Roman re-enactment weekend at St Nicholas."

Paul Baker, chairman of VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists), said: "We are very grateful to curator Gerry Donovan for inviting us to work at Dyffryn. We have enjoyed every support from the management and staff throughout the year".

For example, one of Paul Baker's paintings in the exhibition is a portrait of one of Dyffryn's gardeners, Ron Amos.

Twelve other artists are also exhibiting: Eileen Allan, Eve Hart, Kay Keogh, Shirley Anne Owen and Ann Townson, all showing paintings; Gwyn Price and Mel Forse, showing sculptures; Teresa Bridger, Susan Edwards, Peter Moulding, Sue Roberts and Bernard van Lierop, showing prints, including photography.

The first weekend of the exhibition is also Dyffryn Gardens' only "Open Doors" weekend, with free entry for all.

Artist Pauline Williams with Dyffryn curator Gerry Donovan.

PACT meetings

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community Centre, September 8 at 7pm.

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, September 14 at 7pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Arthur Davis Court, Barry, September 15 at 12 noon.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, Barry, September 17 at 6pm.

DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, September 21 at 6pm.

PENDOYLAN Community Council meeting, Pendoylan School, September 9 at 7.45pm.

PENLLYN Coffee and Chat, Red Fox Public House, September 15 at 11am.

CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, September 2 at 7pm.

STANWELL PACT, Elfed Avenue Church, September 3 at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT, Bethesda Chapel, September 20 at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT, Brockhill Way Community Centre, September 20 at 7pm.

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on September 4 at The Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major from 10am-11am and at the Old School Hall, Church Lane, St Athan from 11.30am-12noon.

No appointments necessary.

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Bridgend Adoption Centre Open Day
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Pyle, Cornelly and Kenfig Hill are out in force to support the charity Gambo Race

ONCE again, there was a fine turnout for the annual gambo race, which started at the Prince of Wales public house in Ton Kenfig.

There was a great deal of imagination on show, with the first prize for best entry going to the Southern Belle, Missisippi Paddle Steamer.

In second were the zombies inspired and led by Michael Jackson in full 'Thriller' gear, while the 'Alice in Wonderland' entry was third.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

The Mississippi Paddle Steamer entry was accompanied by dozens of Southern Belles.

Fantasy floats and fancy dress are to the fore as event brightens the bank holiday

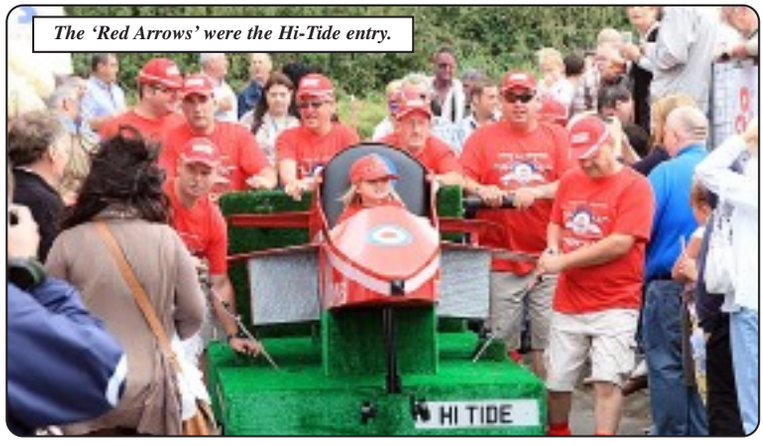
PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

BELOW:
The official starters for the gambo race were Coun Megan Butcher, Coun Jeff Tildesley and Ms Christine Granville.

Michael Jackson shows off a few of his moves.

The Alice in Wonderland entry.

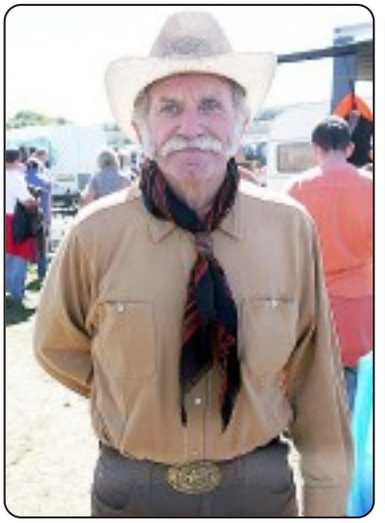
ABOVE and RIGHT:
The Mississippi Paddle Steamer entry, which was declared the winner, was 'towed along the river' by Confederate soldiers (above), with the ladies resplendent in their fanciest Scarlett O'Hara ball gowns.



The 'Red Arrows' were the Hi-Tide entry.

Colourful and quirky, St Mary Hill Fair is back again – *and so are the customers!*

ABOVE: Sandy Muldoon with a Lionhead rabbit.



Harry Haynes – the Rhondda Cowboy!

ABOVE: A saddler hard at work!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

ST MARY HILL FAIR has carved its own little niche in Bridgend and the Vale, and is definitely one of the most idiosyncratic occasions of the year.

Although it takes place near Pencoed these days, it still has strong ties to the Vale.

The event was cancelled last year, due to a week of torrential rain, but this year the sun shone.

It meant that the Bridgend branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, which stood to benefit last year, finally had a chance to raise some funds.

For the customers, there was the usual wide range of livestock, produce, goods and services on offer!

BELOW: Three generations of the Haines family.

'Does your horse do any tricks?' – You bet!

INTERNATIONAL VOLLEYBALL COMES TO SOUTH WALES FOR BANK HOLIDAY

INTERNATIONAL volleyball arrived in south Wales over the Bank Holiday weekend, when teams from around the globe competed at Barry Island's Whitmore Bay.

It was the culmination of the British Beach Volleyball circuit and over three days of competition teams from Britain, Brazil, Germany, Finland and Portugal took part. As you can see from Glyn Evans' pictures there was plenty of athleticism and endeavour on display!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
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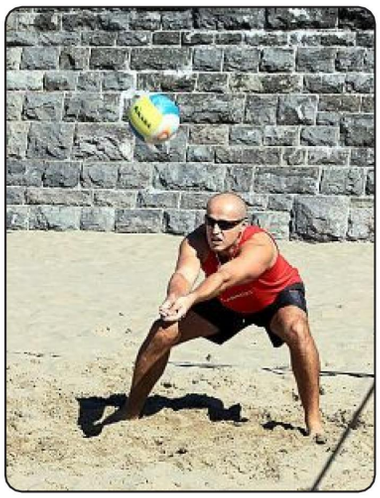

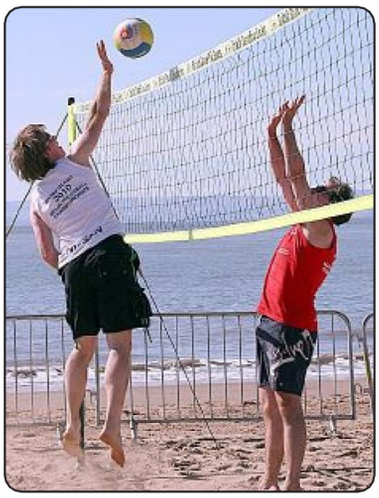

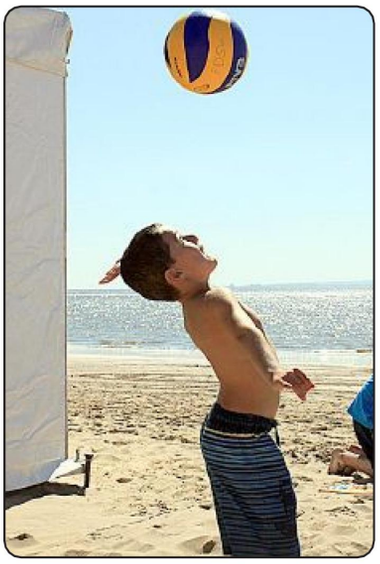

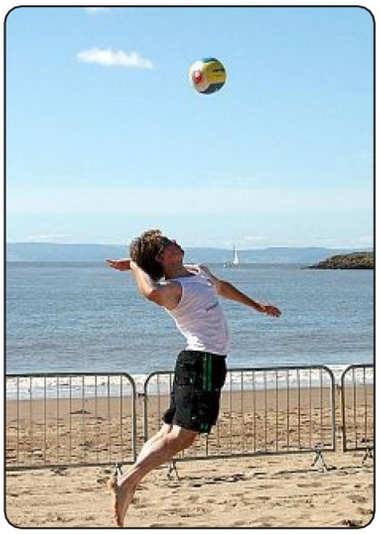

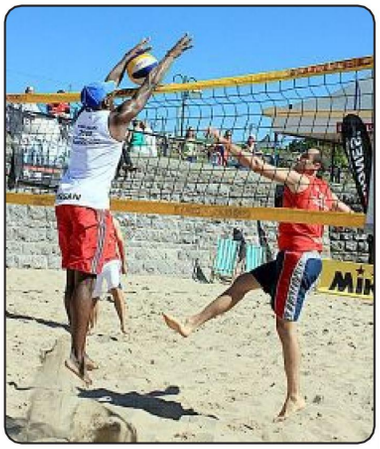

Christmas tree festival to be held in Maesteg

A CHRISTMAS tree festival is being held at St David's Church in Maesteg town centre.

The festival will coincide with the weekend of celebrations being staged by the town council to mark the switching on of the Christmas lights in the town.

Sub warden David Blyth explained that it was decided to put on the festival to give another dimension to the celebrations.

The event will get under way on Friday, December 3, and a concert will take place in the evening with Noteworthy.

The church will be open all day Friday and also on Saturday December 4 when the lights are switched on. Volunteers will provide refreshments in the church hall and there will also be a Father Christmas grotto.

The festival will end on Sunday evening with a carol concert.

Mr Blyth said that a special committee had been formed of members of St David's and also St Michael's Church and the event was being run by the parish.

"We will be contacting local businesses and organisations to invite them to sponsor a tree. They will be responsible for decorating the tree. We will print the names of all sponsors in a special programme.

"We are also hoping the local schools will send children to sing and entertain over the weekend.

"We feel that this will enhance the events already going on in town that weekend. We will be sharing the proceeds of the event between the church and the Garnwen Trust."

St David's has undergone extensive remodelling in recent times with all the pews removed to create a flexible interior which can be put to various uses.

The church grounds have also been landscaped and are open during the day for people to sit in.

There is also a new all-weather play surface for the children attending St David's nursery in the church hall and the hall itself has been re-wired.

Mr Blyth added that churches could not be kept for just a few hours use a week and they were valuable community assets which could be put to good use for the benefit of all.

Their next scheme is to put a kitchen and toilets into the church itself so that the use of the building can be increased.

A hearing loop for the deaf and a new PA system have already been installed.

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Auntie Lou, Janie, Amy and Emily. x

Ainsworth
Doreen and family would like to thank friends, neighbours and former work colleagues of Brian for their kind support during his recent illness.

MALLETT
Albert
Peacefully on August 26, Albert, loving husband of Dilys, much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral service at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge on Monday, September 6 at 12 noon followed by interment at the Limes Cemetery.
Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Coronary Care Unit, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

ALVA JONES
Daphne, Amanda, Rebecca, Philip and Stuart wish to thank all other members of the family who gave them such wonderful support at the time of their sad loss.
Thanks also to friends, neighbours and Alva's ex-work colleagues for their kindness and for all the cards and flowers received.
Many thanks to the Rev. David Boult for the lovely funeral service, which many people commented on, the Carpenters Arms for the lovely buffet and John James and Sons, Funeral Directors for their marvellous service.
Thanks also to all who attended his funeral.

CUSHEN
Kath
Suddenly but peacefully at Llandough Hospital on August 25, 2010, Kath, loving wife of Dan, mother of Lyn, David, John and Michael, devoted grandmother and great-grandmother to all her grandchildren.
Funeral service to be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday September 7 at 11am. Donations, if desired, would be appreciated for the Cystic Fibrosis Trus. Flowers, donations and all enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys CF64 4DE. Tel: 029 20 4627.

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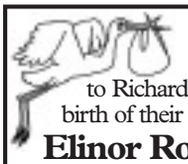

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION NOT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

(Regulation 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations 1999 as amended by SI 2005/1399 and SI 2006/618

FRAMPTON AND LLANMAES FLOOD STORAGE AREA WORKS

The Environment Agency Wales gives notice that it proposes to carry out improvement works to the flood defences on Llanmaes Brook in Frampton and Llanmaes between Frampton Flood Storage Area (NGR SS9734869648) and Llanmaes Flood Storage Area (NGR SS9857068962), a distance of 1.5 kilometres. The proposed improvement works will involve the following: The replacement and extension of the existing spillway structure at Frampton Flood Storage Area. This, alongside the installation of new erosion control measures on the spillway and at the point of re-entry into the channel, will reduce the erosion potential of the water on the structure and channel banks. In addition to this, the works will also involve the replacement of the current spillway erosion control measures at the downstream Llanmaes Flood Storage Area.

The Environment Agency Wales considers that the improvement works are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and does not intend to prepare an environmental statement in respect of them. Further information regarding the works can be provided by contacting the Project Manager, in writing, at the address below.

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to the likely environmental effects of the proposed improvement works should also do so, in writing, to the address specified below, within 28 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Rachel Thomas
Environment Agency Wales
Plas Gwendraeth
Heol Parc Mawr
Cross Hands Business Park
Carmarthenshire SA14 6RE

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Stags celebrate league title in day of destiny

NATHAN BAKER'S Barry Athletic First XI went into the season finale, against Newbridge CC, knowing that only five points were needed to guarantee promotion to Division Two of the Glamorgan & Monmouthshire Cricket League and with a 'corker' of a match taking place at Llanrumney University Fields, between Welsh Asians CC and Vale CC, the chances of promotion were pretty high.

The Barry Oval was packed out for this crucial match with plenty of sunshine. Barry began in steady fashion, with Nathan Baker and Damon Leake looking to battle through the tricky batting conditions. Things were looking good, with boundaries being hit at regular intervals, until Leake got a 'pearler' of a ball and was bowled by James Baker.

The youngster claimed another scalp as ex-captain, Ian Gadd, drove the ball straight to mid-off and was caught for a duck.

Things went from bad to worse as Lee Morgan was unluckily bowled after the ball kept extremely low, for 15.

Lady Luck looked to have deserted the Stags, as they suffered another double blow after Ashley Baker and Scott Hopkins both departed with 'debateable' lbw decisions, which left the Stags in a desperate position, at 47-5.

Things looked bleak for the Stags and the signs of a disappointing score were on the cards. However, with Baker still in the middle there was still a chance that the Stags could post a competitive score and that's just what happened.

Along with Anjan Ganapathy (48 n/o) a vital and match-winning partnership was formed with runs being consistently scored, from the bat.

Baker played a captain's innings and just showed how much of a class-act he is, with the bat, and finished with a battling score of 90 not out as the Stags closed on 196-5 from their 50 overs.

The reply began in a controlled fashion, as the Newbridge batsmen failed to take the game to the Stags in the opening 20 overs with the score on just 58-0.

However, with wickets still in hand, the Stags could not afford to get complacent and with an inspired bowling change from the captain, Billy Usswald took his wicket tally to 32 for the season .

With three wickets down for the visitors (thanks to catches from Ashley Baker and Steve Jones), the Stags knew that they only needed one more wicket to secure promotion to Division Two.

It was a nervy end to the match for the Stags but with the deadly form of 'King of the Barry Oval', Steve Jones, and the fast reflexes from Peter Hellyar, which helped Jones claim the decisive wicket, promotion to Division Two was secured.

Two further wickets put the pressure on the visitors and it looked as if the Stags were going to close this match out with ease.

However, this wasn't the case as the Newbridge captain, James Morgan, and James Baker formed a quick fire partnership of 64 to bring the visitors within striking distance of pinching the match and spoiling the Stags' celebrations.

However, thanks to some tight overs from Hellyar and Jones, the Stags were able to grind out a 9-run victory and pop the champagne corks, as they celebrated not only promotion but the league title as well, after news broke that Vale had beaten the Welsh Asians by 63 runs.

Vale will join the Stags in Division Two, after pinching second place, via the head-to-head regulation after both sides finished with exact stats.

Barry Athletic CC would like to congratulate Lee and Ceri Morgan, after Ceri gave birth to Evie Lorraine Morgan, last week.

SECONDS

MARTIN BAKER took his Barry Athletic Second XI to promotion chasing Miskin Manor CC, knowing that they were under no pressure, with survival already secured.

With the ground looking damp and bowler friendly, Baker lost the toss and was asked to bat first.

After spending all season dazzling the crowds with the ball, Neil Holmes was given the task of opening the innings with Jophin Reji, and for the opening 10 overs both batsmen battled against the conditions very well, before Holmes was bowled and soon after, Reji. Phil Thomas soon followed.

Wickets were tumbling and there were worrying signs that the Stags were going to fall for a low total. With the score at 84-6, the signs were getting more worrying. The Stags battled to 129-7 from their 50 overs.

After the tea session, the home side began steadily with the bat and were scoring quite frequently.

Pritchard and Hybert were looking good with the bat and pressure was building on the Stags. Chances were very limited for the Stags. The Stags had to wait until the 27th over, when John Gee claimed the first wicket of the innings, after Pritchard 'skied' the ball to Reji.

This didn't stop Miskin Manor claiming the victory they needed for a chance of getting promoted to Division One and despite a wicket for Reji, after a fine catch from Simon Phillips, the home side reached their target with 13 overs to spare.

Eighteen points wasn't enough for Miskin Manor, to claim successive promotions, along with Radyr.

THIRDS

PANTEG won the toss and chose to field first.

Opening batsmen, Ashley Baker and Tom Ellis began really well as boundaries were hit at all angles. Both looked confident as they played their strokes and there were signs of a big partnership being formed. However, this partnership was broken in the 12th over when Baker was caught and bowled for 23. Ellis soon followed for 13 and the middle order was exposed.

Despite the two quick wickets, vital mini-partnerships were formed and the Stags began to battle hard for a respectable total.

Jake Griffett (29), Jonathan Phillips (20) and Andy Ellis (13) all added useful runs to the total. Along with a little help from the extras column, it gave the Stags a fighting chance, as they were bowled out for 139.

After tea, the Stags began strongly with Griffett and Frost constantly putting the 'Hawks' under pressure and with the score at just 29-1 from 12 overs, the Stags were firmly in the match and were looking good for victory.

Wickets continued to fall, as bowlers Callum Twomey, Ashley Baker and Andy Ellis all contributed with wickets and the ever reliable director of Third XI cricket, Peter Phillips, continued with his economical bowling and kept the home side under pressure.

However, a match-winning partnership of 65 from 14.4 overs proved to be vital as Panteg A fought back to secure a 5-wicket win.

THANK YOU!

BARRY Athletic CC would like to thank all Stags who turned out at the Barry Oval, after Barry First XI's match with Newbridge, to celebrate another fine season which was highlighted by Barry First XI's first league title since 1987 – a fine achievement from the team.

The club would also like to thank Mark Wilshire and son, James, for providing the live music for the Stags' party and congratulate Mr and Mrs Mark Moulden after they got married on Saturday.

The chairman would like to thank, on behalf of the committee, all those who contributed to improving the facilities at the Barry Oval.

Big mentions go to Glan Williams and Ian Gadd for putting a lot of effort into the improvements.

However, a special mention goes to Mr Michael Gadd for performing nothing short of a miracle in improving the exteriors of the pavilion and helping the Stags to ensure promotion.

AB

BARRY COMPREHENSIVE NEWS ROUND-UP

School records tumble at Jenner Park event

ABOVE:
Pupils set a fast pace in the year-7 800m final.

THE inter-form athletics was held at Jenner Park in glorious sunshine, where competitors were joined by a large number of supporting parents.

Competitors represented their forms as well as houses in this year's athletics competition in a full range of events.

There were excellent performances throughout the day, involving highly contested heats and finals with excellent support and encouragement from fellow form and house members.

A number of school records were broken, namely Matthew Collins, 11.96m in the year-9 triple jump, Aaron Reid, 23.2 sec in the year-10 200m and Elliot Morris-Devred in the year-7 75m hurdles.

Thanks to Jenner Park for helping us stage the event and especially to Mr Foscolo, the groundsman, who is retiring this year.

AC

ABPVE: Matthew Edwards leads the way in the year-10 800 metres.

Ben Williams (year-7) in the high jump.

Curtis Jones (year-8) shows good technique in the long jump.

Alex Lemon in the year-10 long jump.

Amin Ullah in the year-7 75 hurdles.

Pupils say farewell at valedictory dinner

ONE of the highlights of the Barry Sixth Form calendar is the annual valedictory dinner, where students get together for the last time to celebrate the end of their secondary education.

This year's event at the Novotel Hotel provided a fitting conclusion to sixth form life with entertaining speeches and good company.

ABOVE: A scene of enjoyment (tinged with sadness!) at the Barry Sixth Form valedictory dinner 2010.

Cowbridge start new season by taking three hard-fought points

COWBRIDGE TOWN	**3**
DOCKERS FC	**2**

COWBRIDGE Town FC produced a typically determined display to kick off their new season in Division One with three points against a solid Dockers FC.

After an impressive pre-season which had seen Cowbridge pick apart numerous high-class opposition, confidence was flowing through the town ranks in anticipation of another good term, following the promotion and cup heroics of last season.

It was a jittery start from the red and blacks, and Dockers FC had a good spell of early pressure, which although easily dealt with by the Cowbridge defence, signified the match would be no walkover for the promoted side.

After settling in, however, Cowbridge began playing some of the football, which brought them success last season, stroking it around despite a testing surface at the Bear Field.

Ironically, it took the most route one approach possible to break the deadlock. However, a ranging punt from Cowbridge stopper Ian Bavey forced a comical headed flick-on from the Dockers' centre-half to loop over his helpless goalkeeper.

The goal spurred Cowbridge on, and they began to control things from midfield. Chances were being created and missed, however, when first Gethin Still and then Mark Rollings, with an unlikely overhead kick, went close to doubling the advantage.

When the whistle went for the break, Town may have wondered how they hadn't taken the chances to increase a slender advantage.

They were left ruing their profilacy in front of goal early in the second half when a fizzing free kick cracked off the under side of the bar and fell into the path of the onrushing striker, who tapped in a simple finish to level the scores.

Although rattled, Cowbridge Town are made of sterner stuff these days and set about restoring their advantage.

It didn't take long and after fantastic work rate from Lloyd Lewis to chase down a lost cause, Jack Gavin finished well to give Town the lead once more.

The drama was far from over, however, as Dockers came back at Cowbridge once again, and a dangerous cross avoided Cowbridge defenders and was finished well at the back post.

With just minutes left to play, the goal seemed set to leave Cowbridge ruing missed opportunities. Consistent pressure on the Dockers' tiring defence finally saw a ball sit up for Gethin Still, who enhanced his reputation for scoring important goals, as the midfielder's left-footed volley swung away from the 'keeper and into the Dockers net.

With a couple of minutes to play, late efforts from the Dockers to get level for a third time were mopped up by the town defence and the referee's whistle signalled a good three points for the Red and Blacks.

MR

Elite swimmers head for Delhi

BARRY's David Davies and Bridgend's Sarah Lougher are among the 16 swimmers named in what has been described as Wales' strongest-ever swim squad for a Commonwealth Games.

The swimmers who have booked their flights to Delhi are: Jazmin Carlin, Swansea Intensive Training Centre; David Davies, City of Cardiff Swim Club; Georgia Davies, Swansea Intensive Training Centre; Thomas Haffield, City of Cardiff Swim Club; Georgia Holderness, Millfield School; Robert Holderness, Millfield School/ Florida State University; Ieuan Lloyd, City of Cardiff Swim Club; Sara Lougher, Swansea Intensive Training Centre/Bridgend County; Marco Loughran, University of Florida/ Guildford City Swim Club; Jemma Lowe, University of Florida; Sian Morgan, City of Bradford Swim Club; Jennifer Oldham, Swansea Performance; David Roberts, Caerphilly County Swim Club; Danielle Stirrat, City of Cardiff Swim Club; Alys Thomas, Swansea Performance; Lowri Tynan, Loughborough Intensive Training Centre.

Coaches – Martyn Woodroffe, David Haller, Bud McAllister, Stuart McNarry. Team manager – Jenny Shaw.

Four years ago in Melbourne, Team Wales took three medals from the pool. David Davies thrilled the Welsh nation when he stormed to gold in the 1,500m freestyle and bronze in the 400m freestyle.

He said: "I'm really looking forward to Delhi. It's the big target for me this year and I'm looking forward to defending my title. It's certainly going to be tough and Canada's Ryan Cochrane will be the one to watch.

"It's a pretty special feeling to represent Wales and there's nothing quite like the Commonwealth Games. The team spirit within the Welsh camp in Melbourne was really motivating."

Season ends with Cavaliers' anniversary celebration

BANK holiday Monday saw the Cavaliers celebrate their 35th anniversary with a match between the president's and chairman's teams.

The chairman's team got off to a poor start when James Snelson was bowled first ball by Aaron Vincent, who then bowled Julian Griffiths for 16. When Harry Withers and Ben Jenkins were out to successive deliveries from Richard Kelly, the innings was floundering. Only Sam Pickford looked confident and retired on 30.

With the president giving a fine impression of Shane Warne, taking three wickets for only five runs, Sam Pickford returned to hit four sixes in a belligerent 53 not out, with the innings closing on 109 after 20 overs.

The president's reply started badly when Mike Hadlow called Dave Price for a quick single, but the 'Silver Fox' was run out without facing a ball.

Mike was then joined by club captain Nigel Allison, who decided running was not an option on such a warm day and with a flurry of boundaries, both batsman retired on 30.

Julian Griffiths' two wickets only cost 10 runs and the president's first innings totalled 108 after 20 overs.

After an excellent lunch, Ben Jenkins and Harry Withers opened the batting for the second innings and Ben was quickly bowled by Aaron Vincent for one.

New batsman Tom Pritchard and Harry found the going tough against the experienced bowling and both fell to catches trying to up the scoring rate.

A quick 34 retired from Julian Griffiths did so, before James Snelson (26) and Sam Pickford (28 not out) who showed his father Ed no respect with a display of six hitting.

Simon Jones was again the best of the bowlers with 1 for 10 runs.

The president's team were set to score 131 runs in their second innings to win.

The youthful chairman's team were confident when Steve Jenkins quickly fell to the pace of Scott Wheatley but with the chatter increasing, Phil Vincent and Richard Kelly took the attack to the youngsters and with Phil retiring on 30 and Richard making 25, the scene was set for the club president to show his batting class.

Rolling back the years, Simon nudged and nurdled and with a belligerent Dave Russell at the other end, the target was quickly reduced.

When Dave fell for 22 in the last over with only two needed and five balls remaining, Simon was joined by fellow original Cavalier, Ed Pickford.

Undaunted by Julian Griffiths' pace, Ed quickly turned a tasty tickle to the boundary to see his side home with Simon 28 not out.

The club would like to thank everyone who played, and especially those who travelled from away and those who hadn't played for many years. Under a hot sun all day, Ed's barbecue was a fitting end to a very successful season.

Would all members note, the AGM is on Sunday, September 19 at the clubhouse at 6.30pm.

RK

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

● *WE welcome your match reports, club news and other items of interest. Please send them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

Rhydian's record is the highlight of enjoyable day

RIGHT: Guest Rhydian Harris, winner Glyn Watts-Jones, sponsor Mark Brown and society captain Gino Cocco.

THE monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday at Llanishen Golf Club.

Sponsored by Llantwit Major-based estate agents Anthony Brown & Company, it attracted 48 competitors, all hoping to win the Anthony Brown Cup.

The members' section was keenly contested, with just three points separating the top four.

In first place was Glyn Watts-Jones with 36 points, just seeing off the challenge of Trevor Wooding who, despite failing to score on the last two holes, finished runner-up, also with 36 points.

Bryan Owen finished third with 35 points, and Keith James fourth with 33 points. Gwyn Thomas, with 21 points on the front nine, once again threatened the leaderboard but could only finish with 31 points.

The par five 10th hole with its steep incline to the green caused quite a few problems for a number of members.

Failure to safely negotiate the slippery surface caused problems for both Reg Davies and David Williams, while Bryan Wadham was particularly unlucky when a slipped fan belt on his motorised mode of transport brought a premature end to his round.

At the same hole, two other members, Aubrey Bowen and Tim Jarvis (twice) made notable contributions when their teeshots nearly succeeded in increasing the air conditioning in the roof of the nearby clubhouse.

Godfrey Lewis, who the previous evening had appeared on the BBC's national television news channel regarding dormice crossing the Church Village by-pass, won the 'James Hog Roast's' sponsored longest drive competition and Aubrey Bowen returned home with the Premier Turf-sponsored prize when correctly guessing 42 balls would fail to return home. This resulted in £70 being raised for the Llantwit Major Lifeguards fund.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Arwyn John, Trevor Wooding (two), Carl Brown, Keith Wilding and Reg Davies.

Local residents John Rees and Alun Husband joined a large number of guests who ensured this section would be keenly contested, and when Daniel Jarvis returned to the clubhouse with 40 stableford points, many thought this would prove a winning score.

Unfortunately for Daniel, Andrew Hilditch then returned with 41 points – only to be followed into the clubhouse by Rhydian Harris who returned 44 points. Playing off a handicap of four, Rhydian finished with a gross 64 that undoubtedly was a record score for the society. Well done Rhydian.

Society members are now looking forward to the annual 54-hole competition for the David Evans (Agriculture) Ltd trophy, played over three days which takes place on three different courses in south Devon.

TMcC

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Barry Athletic bowlers look forward to domestic finals

BARRY Athletic's PG1 side ended their poor run of form in style with an 84 – 71 win over Bridgend at Barry Island last Saturday.

Beaten in their last three games, the Athletic produced a vastly improved all-round display to collect 12 points and gain revenge for their defeat at Bridgend earlier in the summer.

Top rink honours went to captain Geoff Whittaker, who skipped his line-up to a 26-17 win in a squad featuring Jack Beanland, Colin Spillane and young Luke Stanley.

Robert Horgan's rink, which included three young players – Steve McKernan, Dan Jones and Kristian Harris, came home with a comfortable 21-14 success.

Dean Rees, whose match bowling is restricted to weekends due to work commitments, rallied his side to a 21-15 victory, after trailing 5-12, and eventually destroyed the visitors' young rink with a series of outstanding woods.

Dean's No 3, Ben Parrish, enjoying an excellent first season with Barry Athletic, played his part, bowling with consistent accuracy when under pressure.

The Athletic have one PG1 match to complete their fixtures – at home against Cardiff Athletic on a date yet to be announced.

The PG2 squad, still in with a chance of promotion, have two remaining games – against Barry Plastics on September 9 and leaders Aberdare Harlequins on September 11.

This weekend, the club's domestic finals take place at Barry Island in a full day of competition.

CP

Evan wins Ffos Las feature race

ON AND OFF THE TURF
with Brian Lee

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams landed the feature race at Ffos Las last Friday with his promising five-year-old bay gelding *West With The Wind,* who was recording his third consecutive course win at Britain's newest racecourse in the Totexacta Flexi Betting Chase and in doing so, set a course record.

The favourite *Grand Lahou*, trained by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, and ridden by Richard Johnson, set a cracking pace, only to fall at the eighth fence.

West With The Wind, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, went on to win by one and a half-lengths from *Yellow Flag,* partnered by the legendary A P McCoy.

West With The Wind, a 7-1 chance, carried a hefty top weight of 11st 12lb and Williams said: "It was a mighty weight-carrying performance from a novice. We will probably keep him in novice company for now and have an eye on something in the autumn, possibly a race at Ayr which we won with *Deep Purple*.

"Then we will give him a good long break through the winter as he does appreciate good ground, and bring him back for a spring campaign.

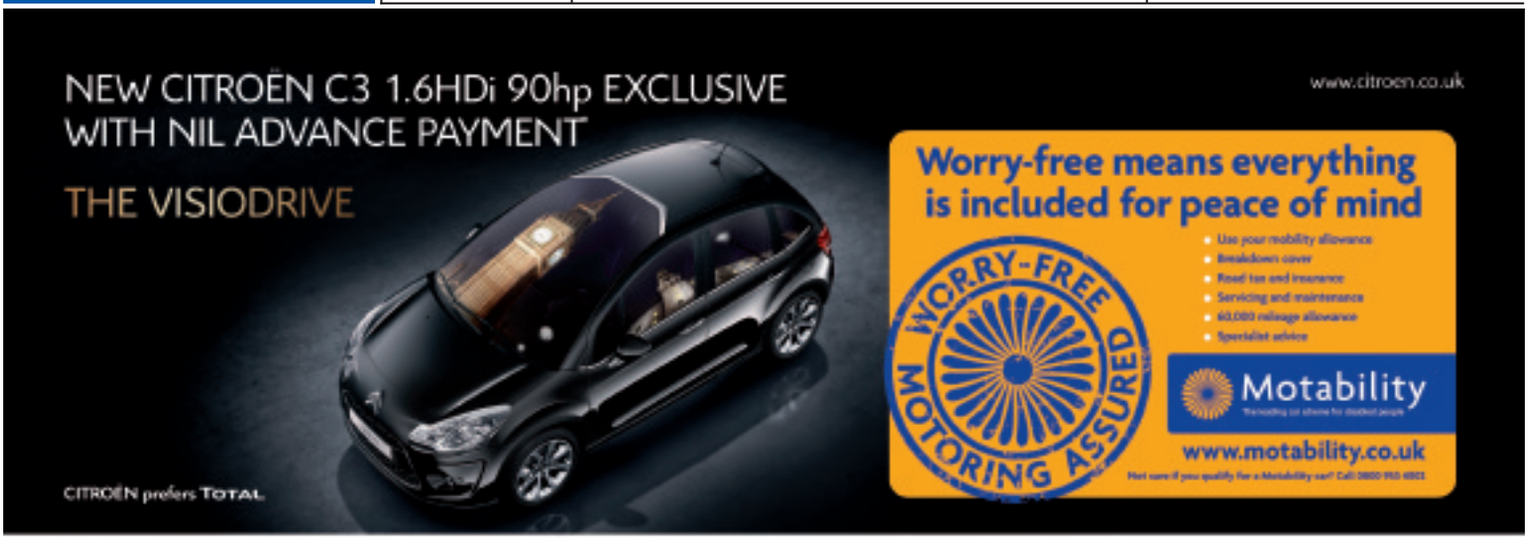
"The great thing about him is that he is still learning about the game."

At Cartmel on Saturday, the Tim Vaughan trained *Ben's Folly*, owned by Cardiff bookmaker David Lovell, and ridden by Richard Johnson, ran out an easy winner of the opening novices hurdle race.

Ben's Folly, a five-year-old chesnut gelding by *Beneficial*, was backed from 11-4 to 2-1.

Photographs of the following point-to-pointers are needed to illustrate my book on Welsh horse racing's gambles and scandals – *Up The Spout*, *Jymario*, *Nearly Noble*, *Gunner Boon* and *Margam Abbey*.

You can email your news/views to Brian Lee at the address leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 029 2073 6438.



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06 06 FOCUS 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-dr Auto. Alloys, air con, cd, tonic blue £5,695
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08 **08 FORD KA Studio.** In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles **£4,995**

PRESTIGE

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07 **07 JAGUAR X K convertible.** Frost blue met with ivory sports leather interior, upgraded 20 inch setanta wheels, full colour satellite navigation, electric heated memory seats, cruise control, climate control, rear parking sensors, bluetooth phone prep, only 12,621 miles, fsh, 1 owner **£35,500**

07 **07 BMW X3 2.5si SE Automatic** in platinum bronze metallic with sand beige leather interior, aluminum running boards, cd, front and rear parking sensors, heated seats, only 33,160 miles **£18,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£10,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES BENZ M Class ML270 CDi Special Edition Automatic 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In black with grey suede interior, climate control, memory heated electric seat, roof rails, only 41,750 miles **£16,495**

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04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CLK270 CDi Avantgarde Auto Coupe** in obsidian black with full anthracite leather interior, bluetooth telephone, auto lights, cruise control, dual zone climate control, traction control, alloys, only 78,615 miles **£10,995**

04 **04 BMW X5 3.0D Sport Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In titanium silver with black leather interior, sat nav, automatic air con, sunroof, multi cd, detachable tow bar, front and rear parking sensors, only 59,600 miles **£15,995**

03 **03 BMW 3 Series 2.0 318Ci SE Convertible.** In light yellow metallic, with full black leather interior, electric heated seats with memory, cruise control, climate control, rear parking sensors, 18" Msport alloy wheels, only 55,615 miles **£9,995**

03 **03 BMW 3.0 330 Ci convertible.** In topaz blue with montana grey leather, rear parking sensors, multi cd, alloy wheels, heated seats, only 55,200 miles **£9,995**

02 **02 JAGUAR X-type 2.5 V6 Automatic Sport 4-dr Saloon.** In Anthracite Black with Sand sport leather interior, reverse park control, automatic climate control, cruise control, privacy glass, colour coded bumpers, only 70,080 miles **£4,995**

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00 **W MERCEDES Benz M Class 3.2 ML320 Auto Station Wagon** in azurite blue with full anthracite leather, electric seats, air con, chrome side steps, alloy wheels, only 92,500 miles **£5,459**

SPORTS

09 **09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite** In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles **£14,495**

09 **58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 SRi Sporthatch.** In technical grey met with silver alpha interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, rear spoiler, trip computer, only 26,770 miles **£9,995**

07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SIII** in carbon grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles **£9,995**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 38,598 miles **£12,795**

06 **56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSi (170ps) FT 5-dr** in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles **£10,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£9,995**

05 **55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible.** In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-spd** in sable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles **£7,495**

04 **54 AUDI A3 2.0TDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In crystal blue with matrix black cloth/leather, cd, alloy wheels, climate control, electronic stability programme, only 64,000 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 TDi (100ps) Sport 5-dr** in rosewood red pearlescent with scala sports interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, cd, only 59,790 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive** in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles **£3,995**

03 **53 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225 bhp)** in raven black met with full authentic baseball leather interior, heated seats, BOSE stereo upgrade, climate control, alloy wheels, trip computer, only 59,200 miles, wind deflector and roof cover **£10,995**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225bhp) 2-dr Convertible.** In silver with special edition grey leather interior, Bose sound system, heated seats, alloy wheels, climate control, only 70,620 miles **£8,995**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,795**

00 **W LEXUS IS200 2.0 Sport 4-Door Saloon.** In Strathcarn blue with Oakham suede/leather interior, multi-CD, electric heated seats, electric sunroof, air con, only 57,280 miles **£4,495**

FAMILY

08 **08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr** in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles **£8,995**

07 **57 NISSAN QashQai 2.0dCi Tenka 5-dr AWD.** In pearl black metallic, with full graphite leather interior, alloy wheels, climate control, cruise control, cd with bluetooth, heated seats, rear parking sensors, panoramic sunroof, only 37,267 miles **£15,995**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles **£7,295**

07 **07 RENAULT Megane 1.5 dci 106 Dynamique 5-dr 6 speed estate.** In mercury silver with dark carbon interior, electric panoramic sunroof, alloy wheels, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 59,200 miles **£6,995**

07 **07 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8VVT (140PS) 5-dr Hatchback** in metro blue with Duke/Elba charcoal interior, air con, alloy wheels, cruisecontrol, alarm, only 27.400 miles **£6,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.8 TDCi Diesel 5-dr Hatchback.** In black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 61,199 miles, quick clean screen **£6,995**

06 **06 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback** in psychedelic azure blue met wth drop grey interior, colour coded bumpers, cityy steering, electric windows, only 39,289 miles **£4,495**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£6,495**

04 **54 CITROEN C3 stop&start 1.4 5-dr Automatic Hatchback.** In silver with blue velour interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, only 29,920 miles **£4,495**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 FORD Focus 1.6i 16v Zetec 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with Saloman black interior, climate pack which includes air con and quick clear heated front screen, alloys, colour coded bumpers, only 83,060 miles **£4,395**

03 **03 HONDA Civic Type S 5-dr** in clover green met with half leather sports seats, climate control, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, full Honda service history, only 36,030 miles **£4,995**

02 **02 AUDI A4 Avant 1.9 TDi SE 5-dr Estate.** In crystal blue with black phoenix interior, climate control, cd, rear entertainment package, roof rails, traction control system, service history, only 55,140 miles **£7,495**

02 **51 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 VVTi GLS Automatic 5-dr.** In Atlantis blue metallic with hocney interior, alloy wheels, air con, sunroof, cd auto-changer, body coloured bumpers, only 34,790 miles **£2,995**

01 **51 MERCEDES Benz A-Class 1.4 A140 Avantguard 5-dr hatchback.** In red with slate grey half leather/cloth interior, cd, ipod connection, air con, alloy wheels, service history, only 47,790 miles **£3,995**

01 **Y LANDROVER Freelander 1.8 GS 3-dr hard top** in Blenheim silver with smokestone interior, alarm, alloy wheels, air con, cd, only 68,220 miles **£3,495**

SMALL

09 **09 VAUXHALL 1.4 16v Design (a/c) 5-dr Automatic Hatchback.** In black with black interior, cd, alloy wheels, electric mirrors and windows, auto dipping rear view mirror, only 8,020 miles **£10,995**

09 **09 VAUXHALL Corsa Club A/C 1.2 16v 5-Dr.** In black sapphire, with cable charcoal interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, CD, alarm and immobiliser, auxiliary output, only 18,218 miles **£7,995**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£7,995**

08 **08 FORD KA Studio.** In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles **£4,995**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v life (a/c) 3-dr hatchback easy tronic.** In metro blue with punch cloth charcoal interior, electric mirrors, air con, immobiliser, service history, only 17,900 miles **£6,495**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£4,995**

05 **05 MINI One 1.6 (Pepper)** in pepper white with kaleido interior, alloy wheels, air con, front driving lamps, fog lights, exterior chrome pack, colour coded bumpers, only 44,830 miles **£7,495**

04 **54 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Pepper pack) 3-dr Hatchback.** In purple with white roof, black interior, 8 spoke alloy wheels, a/c, cd, front fogs, e/front windows, only 39,760 miles **£7,995**

04 **53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Active 3-dr Hatchback.** In ultra blue with points charcoal interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, CD and alloy wheels, only 62,825 miles **£3,395**

04 **04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, cd, only 40,955 miles **£3,895**

03 **03 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Expression 5-dr Hatchback.** In capsicum red with grey interior, CD, sunroof, power steering, service history, only 58,105 miles **£3,295**

02 **52 RENAULT Clio 1.2 QuickShift Auto** in nautical blue with voile interior, remote central locking, sunroof, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 58,800 miles **£2,995**

02 **02 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback** in cyclone blue with limited edition blue interior, alloy wheels, manual sunroof, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 58,650 miles **£2,995**

02 **51 ALFA ROMEO 1.6 T-Spark Lusso 3-dr Hatchback** in Alfa red with elegant velour interior, alloy wheels, air conditioning, I-pod connection, colour coded bumpers, only 79,085 miles **£2,995**

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Visitors from Gwent take members and guests prize

LEFT: The winning team with lady captain Lorraine Pointon-Bell.

COTTRELL Park Ladies held their 'Members and Guests' day recently on the Mackintosh course in a team stableford with the best two scores out of three to count.

There was the usual welcome at the halfway house with cakes, savouries and Pimms to help them on their way.

Unfortunately, as the day progressed, the weather changed and became very unpleasant by mid-afternoon, with torrential rain.

Some of the afternoon ladies did not manage to complete the competition and were thoroughly soaked.

The prize giving by the ladies' captain Lorraine Pointon Bell, saw the first team prize go to Toots Plant with her guests Sally Ward (Rolls of Monmouth) and Moyra Hamond (St Pierre) with 83 points.

Second place went to Liz Overton, with guests Pat Cinus and Maria Driscoll (Glamorganshire) with 80 points,.

Third was Jan Cosby with guests Jill Davies (Coed-y-Mwstwr) and Alison Lewis (Pyle and Kenfig) with 79.

Nearest the pin was won by Moyra Hamond and the longest drive 0-27 handicap, went to Helen Little (Cottrell Park) and the 28-36 handicap to Barbara Watts (Brynhill).

CB

COWBRIDGE BOWLING CLUB NEWS UPDATE

Ferndale BC prove to be a tough test

PLAYING their last league game at home last Saturday, the Cowbridge men's team faced Ferndale, one of the best teams in Wales.

Ferndale were beaten finalists in the Carruthers Shield earlier this month and had only lost one league game this season.

Winning league games at home has been the norm for Cowbridge, but Ferndale were a big test.

At the tea interval, Cowbridge only had a three shot lead overall but Ferndale then proved that good players can play on any surface.

Even leads, when instructed, were able to drive and kill an end, but in its all-round play, Ferndale were the better team.

Although Cowbridge won on one rink by one shot and lost an another by only one shot, they lost overall by 88 – 71.

This was the first time that Cowbridge had lost a league game at home since the club was formed 14 years ago.

Despite this, it was a privilege to have played against such a fine team.

All those that played for Cowbridge last Saturday will remember this game and talk about it for some years to come.

Rink scores were as follows:

Rink one – Mansel Davey, Brian Elsey, John Jones and Dennis Snelling 17 – Ferndale 24.

Rink two – Ron Frayling, Colin Wilson, John Trott and Roger Barwick 21 – Ferndale 20.

Rink three – Charles Sanders, Steve Dickens, Michael Bradley and Norman Wilkinson 19 – Ferndale 20.

Rink four – Terry Dunsworth, Roger Brewer, Brian Kent and Byron Richards 14 – Ferndale 24.

Cowbridge ended the season in fifth position in Division Two and Ferndale, with two games still to play, are a safe bet to be promoted as champions to the Premier Division.

MB

IN BRIEF

Meet the Greyhounds

MEET the Greyhounds with Greyhound Welfare outside Cowbridge Town Hall between 11am-3pm on Saturday, September 4.

There will be a street collection to raise funds for former racing greyhounds prior to rehoming, and a chance to meet greyhounds and their owners.

For further information, telephone 01446 750663.

Valeways walk

PLEASE note, you may encounter stiles, uneven surfaces, steep sections or soft, wet ground on some walks.

September 5 – 2.30pm Dr Salmon's Well. Start at St John the Evangelist Church, Penllyn (SS973760)

For further information, telephone Valeways office on 01446 749000.

Barry Youth in big victory

LAST season saw a resurgent Barry Youth build on strong foundations set by coaches Steve Isaacs and Ray Gallivan.

A strong junior section is now feeding in to the youth, and the coaches set the boys the challenge of winning the league and gaining promotion.

It was nail biting to the end, as the league decider came down to the final match of the season against Cowbridge.

The previous time the teams had met had resulted in a 3-3 draw, so when Barry beat Cowbridge 33–nil, its was a firm testament to how hard the boys had worked in training.

The score did not reflect how well Cowbridge played and the game was played in great spirit. As a result, Barry gained promotion to the BC league.

The youth were invited for a season opener at a 10-a-side tournament at Pencoed, with lots of Ospreys region teams entered.

It was a good measure of how the boys have shaped up, with lots of new additions to the team. Barry entered two teams in the pool stages.

In torrential rain, both teams won easily, with only two tries conceded. It was exciting to see how the older youth boys took the newer lads under their wings and nobody watching from the side lines would have guessed that these boys hadn't been playing together for years.

Following some discussion at the end of the pool stages between the tournament committee and the Barry coaches, it was decided that Barry would skip the semi finals and play as a combined team for the finals.

This was supported unanimously by the players who didn't really want to run the risk of playing each other in the final and thought it was more fitting to play the final as one team.

The final saw Barry play Pencoed Youth. The first half was hard and fast rugby, with both sides playing an expansive game.

With hindsight, perhaps Pencoed should have tried to slow it down and play through their larger forwards.

The second half was dominated by Barry and a number of unanswered tries were run in. Einan Scott, who by now had fully adjusted to the drop goal conversions, was slotting them over with no trouble.

Barry notched up an eight try win with six conversions. Well Done to all the Barry squad on this fine win. Nobody could ask for a better start to a season!

Squad:Richard O'Sullivan, Luke O'Sullivan, Ethan Dicks, Darren Deguerra, Chris West, Ryan Case, Joe Starbuck, Adam Wheeler, Kelvin, Andrew Wakefield, Rhys Thomas, Jake Connelly, Rhidian Mepham, Einan Scott, Jan Lewis, Sion Vidal, Tom Ellis, Andre Williamson and Sam Booker (on loan from Llantwit Major RFC).

A special thank you to the injured players (Joe Gallivan and Mike Hamonda) and friends and family who travelled up to support the boys in such awful weather.

Anyone interested in training with Barry Youth should contact Miff Connelly on 07846 397 535. Training times are at Barry RFC, Reservoir Fields, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm. Old and new Players are welcome.

MC

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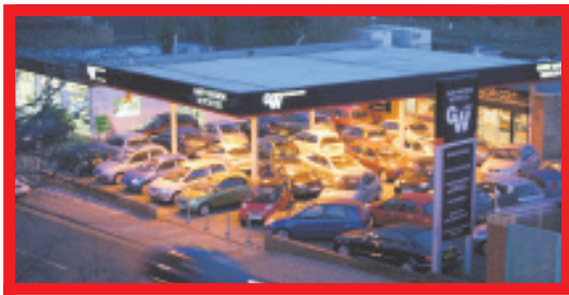

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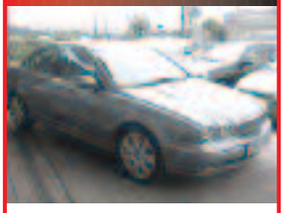

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03	**BMW X5 3.0i Sport Auto.** In silver with black leather trim, 62,000 miles, 2 owners from new	£11,995
04	**CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2.** Ice blue metallic, charcoal leather, 44,000 miles	REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,995
52	**BMW Z3 2.2 Roadster.** in silver with black leather, 45,000 miles with electric hood, air con	£7,995
05	**BMW 320 Diesel ES.** In silver, 65,000 miles. Ideal family saloon at	£7,495
54	**TOYOTA RAV4 XT2 VVTi 3-dr.** In silver, 32,000 miles, great value 4x4	REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,495
53	**MINI Cooper S.** Red with white roof and black leather, 57,000 miles with a/c	REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,495
06	**FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** In silver, 39,000 miles with a/c, on offer at	£6,995
54	**VW Golf 1.9 TDi SE 5-dr.** In silver, 60,000 miles, alloys, etc	£6,995
53	**JAGUAR X-Type 2.5 SE Auto.** Light met blue, grey leather trim, 47,000 miles.	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995
55	**HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0SE Auto** in electric blue with black leather trim, 45,000 miles	£5,995
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04	**FORD Street Ka Luxury.** In monza green with cream leather trim, 46,000 mile convertible	£3,995
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53	**FORD Street Ka.** In met silver, 61,000 miles, fantastic value convertible at	REDUCED BY £300 TO £2,995
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09	**FORD Focus 1.6 Style 5-dr.** In black, 19,000 miles with sports pack and a/c	£8,995
59	**FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 5-dr (new shape)** met silver, 2,200 miles.	£8,995
59	**FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 5-dr (new shape)** met blue, 500 miles only, as new	£8,995
07	**VW Golf 1.9TDi 5-dr.** In silver, 45,000 miles, looks and drives superb	£8,995
57	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDi S 3-dr.** In red, 32,000 miles, £30 a year road tax	£6,995
07	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVTi Dynamic.** In met grey, low mileage, 1 owner example at	£6,495
07	**RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi (86) Dynamic 3-dr.** In met grey, 31,000 miles, £30 road tax	£6,495
56	**VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi 120 Club 7 seater.** Black, economical people carrier	REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495
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54	**AUDI A2 1.4 SE.** In silver, 63,000 miles, great looking example	£5,995
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06	**FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr.** In met silver, 44,000 miles with a/c, etc.	£5,695
05	**FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr.** In silver, 37,000 miles, usual Ghia refinement.	REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495
54	**FORD Focus C Max 1.6 TDi.** Magnum grey, 36,000 miles	REDUCED BY £300 TO £5,495
07	**RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr.** Steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d	REDUCED BY £1,000 TO £4,995
56	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 5-dr.** In satin silver, 40,000 miles, 1 owner example at	£4,995
06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life** In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc.	£4,995
55	**CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi SX 5-dr.** In met burgundy, £30 per year road tax	£4,995
06	**SMART Four Two City 700 Passion Automatic.** Silver, 34,000 miles.	£4,795
06	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr.** In electric blue, great looking car at	REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695
57	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SX Estate.** In met blue, a/c, alloys, roof rails, fantastic value at.	£4,495
05	**FORD Mondeo Zetec TDCi.** Tonic blue, 2 owners, very economical family car	£4,495
55	**CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SX.** Met blue with grey leather, low mileage	£3,995
55	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In silver, 41,000 miles, air con, alloys etc	REDUCED BY £500 TO £3,995
54	**FORD Focus 1.8 Edge 3-dr.** In met-black, 41,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc.	REDUCED BY £300 TO £3,995
05	**FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-dr.** In radiant red with charcoal trim, 45,000 miles, alloys, cd, e/w, c/l	£3,995
54	**SMART Forfour 1.3 Pulse** in met grey and met black, 59,000 miles, electric sunroof	£3,995
06	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** Black, with black leather, 37,000 miles	REDUCED BY £1,000 TO £3,695
06	**MITSUBISHI Colt 1.2 C2i 3-dr.** Light met-blue, 1 owner, CD, e/w, c/l	REDUCED BY £500 TO £3,495
55	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 SXi 3-dr.** In black, 39,000 miles, fantastic value at	REDUCED BY £200 TO £3,495
06	**FORD Ka Collection.** In met-black, 56,000 miles, 1 private owner	£3,495
05	**FORD Ka Style.** In silver, 39,000 miles with cd, etc	£3,395
05	**CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SX.** Silver, 44,500 miles, excellent value family car	REDUCED BY £400 TO £3,295
04	**FORD Mondeo 1.8 Zetec 5-dr.** In black, 68,000 miles with sat nav	£3,295
54	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life.** In spearmint metallic, 55,000 miles, CD, E/W etc.	£3,295
53	**RENAULT Scenic 1.9 Diesel Expression.** In silver, 67,000 miles, versatile people carrier at	£3,295
53	**FORD Ka 1.3i** In blue, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,495

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GEM sport

GLORY FOR RUGBY TEAM AS...

Porthcawl under-16s stole the show at Merthyr RFC.

Porthcawl under-16s put on the style at Sevens tournament in Merthyr Tydfil

OSPREYS regional champions Porthcawl RFC under-16s started their season in style as they stole the show at the annual U16s 7s tournament at Merthyr RFC on Sunday, August 29.

They were drawn in a tough pool with Pontyclun, Gilfach Goch, NHSOB and Merthyr 'B'. The other group consisted of Merthyr 'A', Brecon, St Peters and Ystrad Rhondda.

Although a number of players were unavailable due to Ospreys commitments and injury, the under-16s showed what a quality squad they have as they won their pool, scoring 21 tries and conceding just one (against Pontyclun).

The semi-final against tournament hosts Merthyr 'A' proved a battle and they were down 10-5 at half-time. However, superb fitness and pace in the second half led to five unanswered tries by the young Seagulls.

The final was against Brecon, who were also unbeaten in their group. This was another great game by both sides, with scores being matched in the opening five minutes.

Again, superior speed and conditioning began to show in the latter stages of the half and Porthcawl went into the interval 26-14 up.

The Seagulls then scored a number of breathtaking tries in the second half to win 47-21.

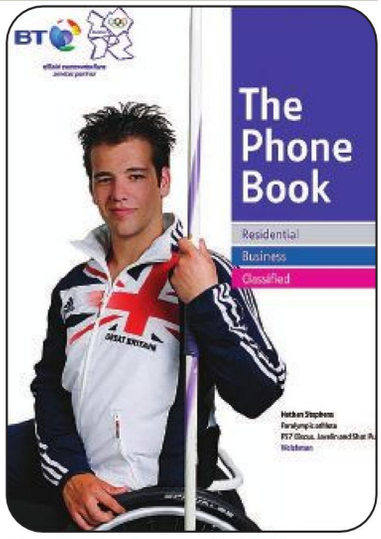
A great day, in which a number of performances and passages of play will live long in the memory. Well done to the whole squad and thank you to Merthyr RFC for their hospitality.

Pool games (all won) – Merthyr 'B' 41-0; NHSOB 40-0; Pontyclun 24-5; Gilfach Goch 22-0.

Semi-final – Merthyr 'A' 32-10. Final – Brecon 47-21.

Squad: Ben Smith, Declan Brown, Emyr Wile, Evan Williams, Geraint Watkin, Jack Taylor, Michael Rawnson, Nick Lloyd, Owen Wright, Thomas Matthews, Tom Bluck (captain), Xavier Manaseitava.

Bridgend's Nathan is the face of BT's phone book in Wales!



RIGHT: *Nathan Stephens will be the face of the BT Phone Book in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.*

WELSH paralympic field athlete Nathan Stephens of Kenfig Hill is the new face on the front of the BT phone book to celebrate the two year lead-up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The former Ynysawdre Comprehensive School pupil is among a host of UK athletes who will take pole position on the cover of BT's new phone books to mark the occasion.

The books will be delivered first in the Vale and Cardiff.

Nathan, who is a BT ambassador, won two gold medals, including a personal best in the javelin, in August's junior world championships in the Czech Republic.

BT is the official communications services partner for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The BT phone book will include London 2012 information, specific to each region as the Games move closer.

Nathan is among a select band of sports people who will be featured.

Other sports personalities who will feature on the book's front cover include Chris Tomlinson, World Indoor long-jump silver medallist; Lee Pearson CBE, nine-times Paralympic equestrian gold medallist; Lee McConnell, Olympic 4x400m relay runner; Dame Mary Peters, Olympic gold medallist in pentathlon; and Ade Adepitan MBE, Paralympic wheelchair basketball bronze medallist.

Nathan, aged 22, said: "Featuring sporting personalities on the cover of the phone book is a great idea and will help raise the profile of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games across the UK.

"I'm proud to be the face of the phone book in Wales, and I'm looking forward to my friends and relatives in Wales receiving their new books with me on the front cover!"

David Grossman, chief executive, BT Directories, said: "Gracing the phone book with inspiring sporting personalities celebrates BT's involvement with the London 2012 Games.

"We hope everyone gets behind the athlete that features on the front cover of their own phone book – it would be great if this inspires young hopefuls in the world of sport.

"Nathan is a super enthusiastic athlete whose accomplishments make him a role model and an important ambassador for London 2012. And who knows? Maybe the new phone books will become a collector's item!"

Three-horse race in the top division

Laleston Lions.

THE Pie Boys moved away from the bottom of the Bridgend six-a-side league with a superb 4-0 victory over The Allstars.

There were a pair of goalless draws elsewhere, but Hangover Heroes were grateful to Mike Cotter, as he preserved a point against Day Sleepers with a string of fine saves.

There were more goals in division one, with both promotion-chasing Dead End Jobs, But Football Gods and Inter Wildmill winning 3-1 against Young Exiles and Hardly Athletic respectively.

It was tighter elsewhere, but the only goal of the game – and a fine Gareth Hancox display – accounted for Laleston Lions as Team Extreme won.

Anyone who wants to join the 6-a-side football leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisure-leagues.net

Llantwit juniors host pre-season festival

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC mini and juniors are gearing up for the start of the new season by hosting a mini rugby festival on Sunday, September 5.

Teams have been invited from all over the Blues' region and to date, 34 teams have confirmed they are taking part.

Under-8s to under-11s are taking part in the festival, which is being sponsored by Sinclair Direct.

There will be games taking place on the Recreation Field and on Llantwit Major Comprehensive School Field. Games will start at 10.30am with the finals taking place on the Rec from about 2pm.

As well as a feast of rugby, there will be refreshments available throughout the day.

All players taking part will receive a medal but there will be trophies for each winning team. Presentation of medals will be performed by Blues and Wales centre Tom Shanklin, assisted by former Llantwit mini and junior player and current Blues member, Daf Hewitt.

So, for an early season taster, come on down and see tomorrow's talent on show. If any child wishes to register for Llantwit mini and juniors, please check out llantwitmajorrfc.co.uk for all the information you need.

Players re-registering need £15 fee but hurry, this will increase to £20 soon. You will be made most welcome.

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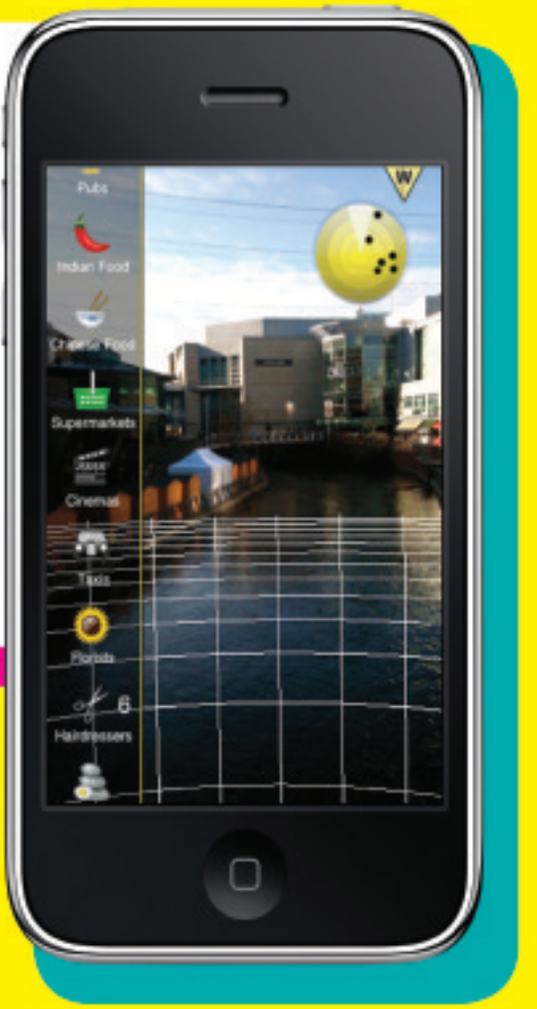
Our mobile app is free to download from Yell.com or the Apple iTunes App Store. So why not take Yell.com with you wherever you go? The app is available for all types of handsets, so whenever you're out and about you'll still be able to search for popular local businesses. You can even view search results on a map and get directions.

See more with your iPhone

Plus, if you've got an iPhone, the app lets you 'see' information about local businesses and services using your iPhone's camera viewfinder. As you point your iPhone at a business or shop, information about it is displayed over the image on your screen. This allows you to view everything from phone numbers to opening hours - even when the business you're interested in is around the corner or in the next street.



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3D maps and Street cam let you see businesses from street level and from the air. You can use these handy tools to locate premises, find your favourite shops or even plan a trip around a city in a real, smooth 3D environment[6].

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